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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Defense Ministers Hold Session in Jeddah

Omani Minister Presides

LD2208142790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1347 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Their excellencies the ministers of defense of the member-states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] held an extraordinary session at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah this afternoon under the chairmanship of His Highness Fahar Bin-taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister in charge of security and defense in the Sultanate of Oman.

Also present were His Excellency Muhammad Bin-Rashid al-Maktum, minister of defense in the State of the United Arab Emirates; His Excellency Staff General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah, minister of defense and deputy commander in chief in the State of Bahrain; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Highness Shaykh Hamad-Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the heir apparent, minister of defense, and commander in chief in the State of Qatar; and His Highness Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, minister of defense of the State of Kuwait.

Discuss Military Situation

LD2208151690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Defense minister of the Gulf Cooperation Council member-countries concluded the first session of their emergency meeting which began today at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah. The current military situation in the region and the recommendations made by chiefs of staff at their third emergency meeting held in Riyadh on 12 August will be discussed.

Officials Address Session

LD2208151190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1408 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The meeting was also attended by Abdullah Bisharah, the secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], Sayf Bin Hashil al-Miskari, the assistant secretary general for political affairs and Major-General Yusuf Muhammad al-Madan, the assistant secretary general for military affairs staff.

His highness Fahar Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id, the deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs in the Sultanate of Oman, began the meeting with an address. Here is the text:

Their Highnesses and Excellencies the defense ministers; His Excellency the Secretary General; brother members of the delegations. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

At the invitation of his excellency the secretary general to convene an emergency meeting of the defense ministers, we are meeting here today to discuss the current military situation in our region and the recommendations of the chiefs of staff taken at their third emergency meeting held in Riyadh on 13 August.

Our meeting is being held at a time when events are successively escalating leading toward an extremely dangerous situation. The historic responsibility we shoulder makes it inevitable that we should examine the dangers threatening the region and make the appropriate decisions to put and end to the deterioration of the situation in order to preserve the security and safety of the citizens and territories of all the member-states of the GCC and the stability of the region. We pray to God to assist us and make us successful. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

After that, His Excellency Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the defense minister of Kuwait, made the following address:

[Passage omitted] His Highness Mr. Chairman Fahar Bin-Taymur, the [Omani] deputy premier for security and defense affairs; brother His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, the [Saudi] second deputy premier, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; brother highnesses and excellencies, defense ministers; His Excellency brother 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] secretary general; brother members of the delegations; peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Brothers, our meeting today is not an ordinary meeting, but a fateful meeting held in critical circumstances—not only for Kuwait but for the whole of the Arabian Gulf region—following the tyrannical aggression by the Iraqi forces in occupying Kuwaiti territory, a matter which requires serious and decisive action to remove the effects of this tyrannical occupation and remove the tension from the region, which has placed its trust in our hands before God and our people.

Brothers, I have great confidence and complete belief that the brutal aggression of the Iraqi regime against Kuwaiti territories and the harsh effects that resulted from it and impacted on the states of the area as a whole and on the Arab countries and all the states of the world—a matter that threatens world peace and stability—have aroused in your hearts feelings of pain and condemnation.

I do not wish to give you details of what the Iraqi aggression is doing to our beloved country Kuwait, because I am certain that you are already aware of its details. We never imagined, nor has anyone ever thought, that a neighboring and fraternal Arab country, with whom we stood and supported with all our means during its hour of need, would invade our country and destroy our installations, terrify our people, and turn security into fear and stability into destruction and terror. We still believe in the teachings of our tolerant faith, which says that a good deed should be rewarded with another good deed and not with treachery, betrayal, and tyranny.

We could have put up some resistance and inflicted a heavy price on the enemy for his invasion. We could also have struck blows at his forces in painful places. Our military capabilities would have enabled us to score a great blow on the body of the aggression, but we placed our faith in the affirmations which had been given to us by the leaders of some Arab states. As a result of our good faith, ethics, belief in fraternity, and true desire not to arouse excitement, we did not take any precautionary measures, and no orders were given to our armed forces to get ready; the disaster took place as a result of the treachery and the onslaught of the Iraqi invasion forces.

Brother highnesses and excellencies; Kuwait has not engaged in any military or non-military action that justifies the ugly Iraqi aggression on Kuwait. You know full well that Kuwait, throughout its history, did not carry out any aggression nor thought of any aggression against anyone. It lived throughout history as a secure and safe country visited by Arab brothers from everywhere seeking stability and safety whenever they faced difficulties.

Their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC member states have resolved that the security of the member states is indivisible and that an aggression against any member state is an aggression against all of them. In the Cooperation Council, we followed this decision and made our behavior comply with this orientation out of our belief that fate is one and that the Iraqi aggression does not single out Kuwait but aims to dominate and control and impose its say on all the Gulf states; it shows disregard for all of us with no respect for any one of us; it is based on domination and means of intimidation and its method knows no limits, restrictions, values, or principles.

Iraqi aggression is aiming at us all, menacing us all, threatening us daily and demonstrating its destructive ability in the most impudent challenge to Arab, Islamic and international will. Kuwait was surprised like the whole world by the total and destructive invasion of Kuwait by land, sea, and air only a few hours after the return of the negotiating Kuwaiti delegation from the Jeddah meeting. Hundreds of tanks and mechanized vehicles, supported by tens of thousands of soldiers complete with weapons and ammunition, began to advance on peaceful Kuwait. Its skies were filled with hundreds of Iraqi fighter planes of all kinds, spreading destruction and terror everywhere. They destroyed all that was good and beautiful in our beloved Kuwait. Large groups of Iraqi naval units stormed our shores and participated in occupying our territories. This proves that the attack was not planned in a day and a night, but was long prepared, despite the false promises and reassurances offered by the Iraqi president to kings and presidents of many Arab countries that he did not intend and was not thinking about carrying out a military operation against Kuwait. It has become clear that these reassurances and promises were nothing but a vile and immoral maneuver behind which the Iraqi regime was hiding its ambitions and dubious plans to invade Kuwait and occupy its territories.

It is now clear to us and to everyone that the main aim of the aggression on Kuwait was not to solve a border dispute or an economic crisis raised by Saddam Husayn. It was done in accordance with a premeditated plan and prior determination to invade Kuwait, occupy all its land, topple its legitimate regime, and annex it by force to Iraq—despite all claims and lies uttered at the beginning of the invasion and reiterated by the deceitful Iraqi media. There is no doubt that this invasion of Kuwaiti territory by Saddam Husayn clearly indicates the expansionist and aggressive tendency of Saddam Husayn which is now threatening the entire region and throwing the region's hopes and ambitions to the wind.

Your highnesses and excellencies: As I have said earlier, our meeting today is fateful, as it determines our future and the future of our coming generations and places on us great responsibility which we should undertake. We should cooperate in order to evict the aggressor from Kuwaiti land and restore the situation in Kuwait to what it was prior to the aggression and the tyrannical Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti territory. We should not recognize the consequences of this aggression; we should also lay down a plan and gain a complete perception in order to confront any future aggression that may take place against any of our states.

With these means, we will be able to preserve the trust embodied in us and achieve security and stability for the peoples of our states, who expect further serious and fruitful cooperation among us, so that the phantom of war and destruction can be exorcized from the region. In this way, security will be assured and God will accept what we are doing. [passage omitted]

His Excellency 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah then made the following speech:

Your highnesses, your excellencies, ministers. I should like to welcome you on behalf of the GCC general secretariat, and to express appreciation for the firm and manly stances adopted by your states in implementation of, and out of commitment to, the resolution of their majesties and highnesses—that any attack on a member state of the GCC will be considered an attack on all of them.

I hail your presence and I hail the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the generosity it has displayed towards the council in both normal and extraordinary circumstances.

Your highness Mr. Chairman, your highnesses and excellencies the minsiters: Circumstances are difficult, and a brief word is more meaningful than statements. We are victims of a mindless force, and the most difficult thing for peoples to face is the possession of power in the hands of a mindless person, a person without anyone to guide his behavior, a person without any obligation.

Kuwait is the victim of power moved by ambitions, and the situation we are now facing in the GCC states is how to pry Kuwait from the teeth of occupation.

Mr.Chairman: There are several means, first of all, the firm, unhesitating, and strong position shown by the international community. Second, the position of the GCC member states behind these decisions, whether Arab or international. Third, preparedness and equipment in accordance with the words of Almighty God: Prepare for them whatever power you can muster.

Mr. Chairman: Reasonable force is the force that is balanced in all its forms; power with reason is reassurance, and power with right is hope and life.

I believe that Kuwait will escape from those who want to scrap it from the map of life [passage as received]; it will emerge strong with your position, your firmness, as well as with the determination of our leaders, and their knowledge and comprehension of this crisis.

In short, the people of the State of Kuwait, and the people of the GCC member states are following your action and all your steps. I hope that we all will rise to the level of their expectations.

After this, the meeting went into closed session.

To Reinforce RDF in Saudi Arabia

LD2208171590 Dubayy Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Defense ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council agreed today to reinforce its small rapid deployment force [RDF] based in Saudi Arabia.

Abdallah Bisharah, general secretary of the Gulf alliance, announced the decision to muster more troops for the peninsular shield force, but gave no details on the number of men or where they would be deployed.

The force, of up to 10,000 troops from the six member states, has been based for the past two years (?on) the northeastern Saudi base of Hafr al-Batin.

GCC Leader Comments

LD2208220290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 22 August 1990, SPA—Their excellencies the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] defense ministers ended this afternoon at the palace of conferences in Jeddah their extraordinary session under His Highness Fahar Bin-Taymur al Sa'id, Omani deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs.

At the end of the meeting, His Excellency the GCC general secretary made a press statement in which he said: Their excellencies the GCC defense ministers have discussed several points, including support, backing, and help for the sister state of Kuwait; work for ending the Iraqi occupation of its territory and restoring the state's legitimacy, in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab summit and the United Nations, and in particular those of the Security Council; and work for freeing Kuwait from occupation in the international framework, for working within the framework of the collective responsibility of the Arab, Islamic and international will, and for consecrating capabilities and all that is available for this objective.

The secretary general explained that all this is in harmony with the basic statute of the council, which states that aggression against any member state is aggression against all of them. He referred to the extraordinary meeting of the GCC chiefs of staff held in Riyadh last week, and said that "the defense ministers today approved the recommendations of that meeting."

Ministers Depart After Meeting

LD2208182790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1759 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Their highnesses and excellencies the defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries left Jeddah this evening after participating in the emergency session held today in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

GCC Official Views Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait

LD2208125390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Interview with 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC, by unidentified reporter on 20 August at GCC Secretariat Headquarters in Riyadh—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] We are pleased to meet with the GCC Secretary General Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah. Welcome Mr. Abdullah at this meeting.

[Bisharah] thank you and welcome at the headquarters of the Secretariat General. We are happy to meet you.

[Reporter] What are the measures that have been taken vis-a-vis the current situation by the GCC Secretariat General, particularly as the State of Kuwait, which has been invaded, is a member of the Council?

[Bisharah] Following the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait, the Secretariat moved; we made contacts with the member-states in order to realize four urgent aims: The first aim is the concentrated and strong political action within the Arab and international frameworks. As a matter of fact, the GCC member-states made moves within the Arab League framework as the [foreign] ministers were then in Cairo to attend a meeting of the Islamic states foreign ministers. They immediately held a meeting and issued the first statement from the GCC. Then, in a collective action and in coordination with Egypt and some of the other fraternal states, the Arab league was able to issue the first resolution. At the international level the GCC member-states moved collectively and tabled the first draft resolution to the Security Council—Resolution No.

660—which calls on Iraq to immediately withdraw and restore legitimacy to Kuwait.

That was at the political level. At the military level, the states organized direct coordination and a meeting of the chiefs of staff was held. We within the political action held a meeting of the foreign ministers—the first meeting was held in Cairo, and the second meeting in Jeddah. One was immediately following the invasion and the other a few days later.

At the military level, as I said, the chiefs of staff met and recommendations were adopted. Forces—as small as they are—moved. They expressed the resolve of the member-states to confront this danger collectively. The defense ministers will meet the day after tomorrow [22 August], God willing. [passage omitted] At the security level—we are also concerned with internal security, particulary in these circumstances when we fear terrorism and the infiltration of terrorists, as the situation is abnormal—we coordinated between the security services. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. Abdullah, as we know, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was completed. It did not stop at that, however; it went beyond with repeated threats to various countries, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Are there emergency plans to ward off an expected attack or any such matter?

[Bisharah] Brother 'Ali, you know that the first thing that was done was consultation within the framework of the GCC countries. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took preventive measures to safeguard its independence, its stability, to protect its territory, and to ward off any possible Iraqi invasion. The GCC joined the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this decision and has also participated in the multinational forces which have arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Those who claim to be Muslims are using the weakest means by saying that since the holy places are in this region, why were foreign forces sent. These are mere words said in order to affect stupid people. What are your views on this subject?

[Bisharah] This media propaganda should not affect us. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How would you analyze the Iraqi regime agreement to the 1975 Algiers accord.

[Bisharah] I am one of those who said a long.... [changes thought] This accord was signed between Iran and Iraq, it was lodged at the United Nations, and it was hosted [as heard] by the Algerian Government under the auspices of the late president Houari Boumedienne. The accord came as a result of convictions, and was one of the means of stability in the region. [passage omitted] Iraq should not have gone to war for this issue, which had been documented through an accord, returning to it is a great political and moral defeat. It is a defeat; after all these years of Iraq saying that it has turned its back on the Algiers Accord, would not agree to or accept it, suddenly Iraq says we are coming to the very thing we destroyed and tore down on television. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. Abdullah, let us return once again to the question of the six Gulf states and their contact with the Arab League in the current situation and for the forthcoming phase. As you said, a meeting was held at the beginning of the invasion, but later—during the next phase—are there any specific arrangements, contacts with the Arab League, meetings?

[Bisharah] There are contacts naturally, within the framework of this tragedy we have suffered. Yes, there are contacts in order to ascertain what has been done with regard to the implementation of the summit resolution—there is a resolution which was adopted by the [Cairo] summit, and this resolution calls on Iraq to withdraw, condemns Iraq's behavior, and supports the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's measures and blesses these measures. Some Arab states participated in and blessed these measures and some abstained. [Iraq] has not complied with the call for withdrawal. It is inevitable that there should be a report from the Secretariat General to the Arab states. Egypt was right when it called for a meeting to be held soon to ascertain the outcome of the resolution which was adopted [at the Cairo] summit. We in the GCC Secretariat General realize the circumstances in which the Arab League now finds itself. We have one wish—at least a minimum of credibility of the League should be maintained.

[Reporter] Mr. Bisharah, what are your expectations regarding the current situation, and will the problem end in a specific time. What are your expectations regarding the situation generally?

[Bisharah] I would like to say that we will leave this unsettled period which we are in at the moment. Be assured that we will get out of it with international acclaim, satisfaction, and cooperation. Kuwait is a state of high status and weight, and tampering with it is not easy. Therefore, I am optimistic. I can see a lot of satisfaction on the horizon and an international drive to restore matters to their normal course. God willing, we will meet shortly in Kuwait to talk about these moments. [passage omitted]

Egypt Requests 30 Aug League Ministers' Meeting

NC2208141390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—MENA has learned that Egypt has requested the Arab League General Secretariat to hold the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo on 30 August. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Interviewed on Gulf Crisis, Jordan Visit

JN2308085790 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Aug 90 Second Edition p 4

[By Hanan al-Masri]

[Text] Events are taking place rapidly and consultations on the Gulf crisis are continuing from every direction. There are now Arab and international diplomatic moves to consult over and discuss this crisis that is escalating daily in search of a diplomatic solution and to avert the military option.

Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the state of Palestine, has come to Amman with the details of the Palestinian-Yemeni initiative to defuse the crisis. SAWT AL-SHA'B has interviewed Qaddumi on the Arab, and particularly Palestinian, issues relating to the Gulf crisis.

At the beginning, Qaddumi spoke about the Palestinian-Yemeni initiative and said: The initiative aims to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and avert the military solution. It also aims to deal with the roots of the issues.

He explained that this initiative is based on President Saddam Husayn's initiative, which includes the principle of simultaneous withdrawals from all [occupied] areas in the region, namely Israel's withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian territories, Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon, and Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, and replacing the withdrawing forces with UN troops. The initiative also calls for withdrawing the foreign troops' from the Gulf states and the Gulf waters and replacing them with international troops under the aegis of the United Nations. It also calls for freezing the embargo resolutions against Iraq and for applying them against any party that does not accept the solution.

Answering a question on statements made by certain Palestinian officials on the PLO's position over the Gulf crisis which contradict with the PLO's official position, Qaddumi said: The PLO's position is absolutely clear, and is eager to treat the Gulf crisis within the Arab context. It categorically rejects foreign intervention. This Palestinian position was stressed in the Arab summit and was explained by Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to the Arab summit's good offices committee to find a solution to this crisis. Regrettably, there was an insistence on not resolving the crisis and on leaving the matter to foreign troops. All Palestinian statements fall in the direction of the need for an Arab solution to the crisis. Certain writers in the press, however, are trying to distort these statements.

Qaddumi added: The state of Palestine expressed reservations on the denunciation because it meant foreign intervention in the Arab nation's internal issues and an obstruction to the constant Arab efforts to find a solution which would contain the crisis in the Arab context.

He added: The Palestinian position is eager for Arab solidarity through the Arab League. We Palestinians have faced many problems, and I, the foreign minister of the state of Palestine, used to complain about the way the Arabs deal with such issues. Regrettably, we resorted to voting—for the first time—as if some people wanted to classify the stands. We insisted that the Arab League should be the party responsible for resolving this crisis apart from foreign interventions.

Regarding the status of Palestinians in the Gulf states and the attempt by some writers to distort the Palestinian position which would reflect negatively on the Palestinians' livelihood in the Gulf states, Qaddumi said: It is not a hidden fact that there are some problems created by the prejudiced campaigns carried out, regrettably, by the Egyptian press and the poisonous pens. These pens have lost their pan-Arab identity and began to attack the PLO without any justification as if the PLO was behind all those crises. They should consult history to realize that the Palestinian people have struggled for a long time, and are still struggling, for the sake of the pan-Arab cause. If it were not for that struggle, the whole region would have come under foreign custodianship ages ago.

Regarding the United States' rejection of President Saddam's recent initiative, Qaddumi said: It seems that the United States is not serious about finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. It was very clear from the beginning that it wanted to act alone to take whatever decisions it deemed appropriate. It obtained a resolution of denunciation from the United Nations even before it learned about the Arab League Council's resolution, which categorically rejected foreign intervention. It also obtained other resolutions from the United Nations and used the Gulf crisis as a pretext to enter and maintain its presence in the Gulf region. Here I wish to point out that the United States submitted a memorandum to the Arab summit in Baghdad on 23 May [1990], through the Arab League secretary general, in which it said it maintains a presence in the Gulf and that its friends support such a presence. It was as if it was warning the Arab summit against taking any resolution against that presence. The United States took advantage of this crisis to impose this presence in a clear way. The memorandum also referred to the flow of oil from the Gulf and expressed support for President Mubarak's initiative on mass destruction weapons, and called for dialogue among all parties concerned in the region over this issue, meaning Israel. The United States added in the memorandum that this dialogue should begin without waiting for a solution to the complicated problems in the region, meaning the Palestine question. After all this, can one say there is no conspiracy?

Regarding certain Gulf states' position toward the PLO and what has been rumored about Gulf states considering Yasir 'Arafat a persona non grata in those states, Qaddumi commented: There is a crisis which flared the emotions of many people, including Arab officials. Therefore, and out of our appreciation of all those circumstances, we believe we must control ourselves in order to avoid the consequences of these statements and positions, which may be emotional and complicated. Our belief in the soundness and firmness of our position in defense of the Arab nation and its sacred cause is what prompts us to act and draws the guidelines for our policy, which cannot be biased when dealing with Arab problems and crises. These issues concern us, and we are all in the same boat.

Regarding his current visit to Jordan and talks with the Jordanian officials, Qaddumi said: We constantly hold consultations on the highest levels. We and Jordan face the problems and challenges together and try to coordinate and cooperate to deal with them in a responsible pan-Arab manner.

Regarding his meeting yesterday with the French ambassador in Amman, Qaddumi said: The PLO has ties of friendship with France, which stressed that it opposes the use of force and supports the solution to the crisis through the United Nations.

Regarding the possibility of the PLO attending the Arab foreign ministers meeting which Egypt has been called for on 26 August, Qaddumi said: Consultations are still underway and there are other calls to convene a summit conference. Consultations are being held over these issues to fix dates so that they can achieve the required objective, and not add further complications.

PNC Members in Jordan Emphasize Iraq Support

JN2308074990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
23 Aug 90 p 9

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—Members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] members residing in Jordan held a meeting last night under the chairmanship of His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, PNC speaker. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department attended.

The meeting was held to discuss the consequences and dangers of the colonialist military buildup, led by the United States and some of its colonialist allies, in the Arabian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. The attendees considered this presence a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and international norms and charters, which show concern for the peoples' freedom, safety, and stability.

In this regard, His Eminence Shaykh al-Sa'ih said the new imperialist onslaught against fraternal Iraq and its steadfastness is in fact a crusading, colonialist, and imperialist conspiracy, in collusion with international Zionism, aimed at establishing its control and exploiting the Arab and Islamic resources in the region.

His eminence added: This colonialist onslaught falls within the framework of the second phase in the international conspiracy, which began with the occupation of the Palestinian territories and the desecration of the Islamic and Christian holy places.

The attendees stressed the need to support fraternal Iraq until the colonialists and their weapons leave the Arab land and its holy places. They also stressed the need to treat the situation as an Arab issue within the Arab context without any foreign interference.

Urge DFLP To End Differences

JN2308075490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
23 Aug 90 p 14

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—At the end of the meeting held by the Palestine National Council [PNC] members residing in Amman under the chairmanship of His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih to discuss the Gulf crisis, the attendees discussed the developments of the internal crisis inside the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. It was agreed to set up a committee to draft an appeal on behalf of the PNC members to urge DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah to shoulder his responsibilities and do his best to avert the DFLP's division and preserve its unity, particularly in these critical circumstances, which the Arab situation and the Palestine cause are passing through, and which call for closing ranks and strengthening the unity of the PLO factions and the Palestinian people.

Arab Liberation Front Reiterates Support for Iraq

JN2208183190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT
22 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 22 Aug (INA)—The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has said that President Saddam Husayn has proved in his initiative, which calls for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the holy Arab lands in exchange for allowing foreign nationals to leave Iraq, that the Arab nation has a civilized mission and is capable of making peace on an equal footing with the rest of the civilized nations.

In a statement to INA in Tunis today, an official ALF spokesman stressed that the Arab nation is mature, that neither imperialism nor reactionaryism can subjugate it, and that dealing with the Arab nation and the rest of the world should be done on an equal footing and with mutual respect.

The source called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces, chiefly the United States, from Arab territories in the Arabian Peninsula and Najd [Saudi Arabia] and the resolution of all Arab disputes within the Arab framework and its legitimate institutions, without any foreign interference under any pretext.

Moreover, he said that the ALF, along with all its cadres and strugglers, renews its absolute and unlimited support for President Saddam Husayn and places all its capabilities at the disposal of his wise leadership to confront the challenge imposed on the Arab nation.

He pointed out that Iraq's triumph over imperialism and reactionaryism is a defeat for Zionism and a victory for the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, stressing that in the wake of the blessed intifadah, the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories and elsewhere live [word indistinct] the splendid Iraqi victory against its treasonous and covetous enemies.

The spokesman added that the Arab masses took to the streets in most Arab capitals to declare their absolute support for President Saddam Husayn's mighty steps to confront the challenges imposed on the Arab nation by the imperialist circles and their Arab servants.

DFLP, PFLP Consider Relocation From Damascus

NC2308075490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 22 Aug (MENA)—George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], are currently considering transferring their headquarters from Damascus to Aden or Baghdad, according to Palestinian sources.

The sources say that Habash and Hawatimah are considering the move based on their opposition to Syria's position on the Gulf war.

Syria has strongly condemned the Iraqi military invasion of Kuwait and has called for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government to that country.

Algeria

Parliamentarians Protest Foreign Troops in Gulf

LD2208133490 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 22 August (APS)—Algerian and Jordanian parliamentarians qualified Tuesday in Amman the presence of foreign troops in the Arabian Peninsula as "an unprecedented affront to the holy places of Arabs and Moslems". A communique issued at the end of talks between a delegation of representatives of the Jordanian parliament and an Algerian parliamentary delegation led by a vice president of the People's National Assembly, affirmed that this intervention constitutes "an attempt to enable the Zionist enemy to realize its dream of the Greater Israel".

Moreover, the two sides reaffirmed their "support to Iraq" and called on Arab and Moslem countries "to help Iraq by all means in order to protect the Iraqi people from attempts aimed at starving them".

Egypt

Kuwaiti Premier Holds News Conference

NC2208143090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has called on the presidents and leaders of Arab countries to implement the resolutions passed by the Arab leaders on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti prime minister also called on the UN Security Council to implement all the international resolutions aimed at forcing the Iraqi authority to withdraw the invading troops from Kuwait and restoring the legitimate government in Kuwait.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said at a news conference this morning that the ruling authority in Iraq should immediately withdraw [its troops] from all Kuwaiti territory so as to enable the legitimate Kuwaiti Government to assume its responsibilities there.

The Kuwaiti prime minister said that the Kuwaiti people have rejected and still reject the presence of the invading Iraqi troops in their country. The Kuwaiti people have not condoned and will not condone the presence of these forces. The Kuwaitis have decided to defend their country and their land and will continue to struggle until the last Iraqi soldier is thrown out of Kuwait.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said that the next few days will witness an escalation in the resistance operations and the struggle for the liberation of Kuwaiti territories from the invaders. He added: All international agreements endorse our right to defend ourselves, our citizens, and our country.

Concerning the Iraqi initiatives, the Kuwaiti prime minister said that the Iraqi ruling authority is making these intiatives to confuse the issue and waste time. The entire world has rejected these intiatives, for the resolutions of the Security Council must be implemented and Iraqi troops must withdraw.

As for the recent Iraqi initiative toward the United States, the Kuwaiti prime minister said that the U.S. administration has rejected that one, too, as it did with earlier Iraqi initiatives.

Shaykh al-Sabah added: We share President Mubarak's concern and fears for developments in the Gulf. We are not warmongers, and we do not want either at present or in the future to endanger this vital region. We want the resolutions adopted by the leaders of the Arab world and the international community to be implemented, and we want President Saddam Husayn to respond to these resolutions.

If Kuwait is compelled to go to war to safeguard the sovereignty of its territories, the Kuwaiti heir apparent pointed out, we will do all we can to liberate our country, seeking support from our friends and brothers in our bid to liberate Kuwait from Iraq.

Regarding the use of military force, Shaykh al-Sabah said it is up to the Iraqi president to choose the way or the appropriate formula to avert the use of force in this vital part of the world. Unfortunately, however, he continues to reject all the resolutions adopted by the Arab and international organizations, and he will have to bear the consequences of his wrong policy, Shaykh al-Sabah asserted.

Regarding the Jeddah talks between Kuwait and Iraq, Shaykh al-Sabah said: On 15 July we were surprised by an Iraqi memorandum handed to the Arab League secretary general. The Iraqi delegation requested that the memorandum, which contained many false accusations, be distributed. We responded to this memoranudm with a Kuwaiti memorandum, which clearly and frankly answered each and every point mentioned in the Iraqi memorandum.

Shaykh al-Sabah added: We thought that since the ruling authority in Iraq had decided to get the Arab states involved as a party to the border dispute between Kuwait and Iraq, then this would be an appropriate time to do so. We informed Iraq that we welcomed the formation of a committee from the Arab states to study the points of difference and find a final solution for them. The Iraqis rejected the Kuwaiti request and said these issues must be solved bilaterally. However, they sent another memorandum to the Arab League.

Shaykh al-Sabah pointed out that, thanks to the endeavors of President Husni Mubarak and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, a meeting was held in Jeddah, and we were ready to discuss all subjects, but the Iraqi delegation came without any authority. They refused to talk and insisted on returning to Baghdad. On

Thursday, we were taken by surprise by the Iraqi invasion of the Kuwaiti territories.

In response to a question, Shaykh al-Sabah stressed that we are not ready to cede any Kuwaiti territories. He added that the subjects that were under discussion between the two countries did not mean the giving up of any Kuwaiti islands or territories, but concerned the delineation of the borders between Iraq and Kuwait. He added that an agreement had been signed in 1963.

Regarding the Kuwaiti troops that managed to get out of Kuwait, the Kuwaiti heir apparent said: Without going into details and movements of a military nature, our troops will start to reorganize and rearm themselves to assume their natural role in liberating the Kuwaiti territories.

Concluding his news conference, the Kuwaiti heir apparent expressed his thanks and gratitude to President Mubarak and the Egyptian people, who have stood beside the Kuwaitis in their predicament. He also saluted all countries and peoples who have suported Kuwait's rights and condemned the Iraqi military invasion of Kuwaiti territories.

Departs Cairo 22 August

NC2208181090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, left Cairo this evening at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Kuwaiti official held talks with President Husni Mubarak on developments in the Gulf situation. He also met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In a predeparture press statement, the Kuwaiti heir apparent expressed thanks for the just and courageous Egyptian stand condemning and rejecting Iraq's treacherous aggression against the state of Kuwait. He added that this stand insists on the Iraqi forces' withdrawal and on its support for the legitimate authority in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent expressed his country's appreciation for the support and effective solidarity demonstrated by fraternal Egypt—president, government, and people—in confronting the Iraqi invasion and occupation, and for the sincere sympathy and fraternal care given to the sons of Kuwait in Egypt. The Kuwaiti heir apparent stressed his confident belief that Kuwait, with the support of the Arab and Islamic nation and the international community, will be able to expel the invaders and liberate the homeland from the treacherous occupation.

Minister on Role of Troops in Saudi Arabia

NC2208190190 Cairo MENA in English 1728 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Suez, Egypt, 22 Aug (MENA)—Defence Minister General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib attended today the final stage of the third field army exercises, feeling satisfied over the high competence of combat forces .

He expounded to army commanders and officers the current events in the Gulf and the Egyptian decision to send forces to Saudi Arabia, according to the recent emergency Arab summit resolutions and President Husni Mubarak's decision to defend Islamic sacred shrines.

He emphasized that the forces which were sent to Saudi Arabia would not rpt not affect the Egyptian national security and that their main task is to bolster the defensive capability for defending Saudi lands.

The defence minister stressed that the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia have no rpt no other tasks except defending the Saudi land and sacred shrines.

Cairo Daily Compares Husayn to Hitler

PM2108144490 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Hitler And Saddam: Together To Hell"]

[Text] We did not know where President Husayn had found his wisdom and courage when we heard his statement in which he threatened to blow up the whole Earth and destroy the solar system. The Palestinian official who visited him in Iraq a few days ago has clarified matters and revealed the source of his courage and the reasons for his foolishness, which has exceeded the bounds of imagination. The official revealed to us that he met with Saddam in an underground bunker. He reached the place in a car with all the blinds drawn down so that he would not know the location of the president's shelter.

This situation is similar to that in the last days of Adolf Hitler, who committed suicide in his bunker after he was defeated by history, human rights, and the allied forces which freed Europe from his occupation and liberated Germany from his oppression and dictatorship. Hitler and Saddam have a similar personality in terms of behavior.

Both dictators led their parties to power. Both invaded neighboring states, occupied their territories, made their peoples homeless, and spoke of a historic right sanctioning the occupation and annexation of territory. Did Hitler not do that when he invaded and occupied Poland, declaring it part of Germany? Did Saddam not do that when he attacked Iran and announced that al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] returned to the motherland? Did he not attempt to link the telephone, post, road, and electricity networks between al-Muhammarah and Basra? Yes, he did all that, just as he has done and is doing to us today, since he is demanding that license plates on Kuwaiti vehicles be replaced with Iraqi plates in order to conceal the criminal theft of Kuwaiti cars. His soldiers stole these cars from stores, showrooms, homes, and streets. We are confronted with Hitler in the last days of his life, in May 1945. We are also confronted with a Saddam Husayn in his secret bunker, which tyrants always know is the place to spend the last hours of their life.

Saddam Husayn has found safety in his secret shelter, which he has prepared well to withstand every kind of bombardment. As long as his excellency's safety is guaranteed, Iraq's people and Army can go to hell! He is kindling the volcano and lighting fires, paying no attention to the future of our Arab people in Iraq, of our Iraqi Army, of millions of Arabs in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf, or of millions of Iranians, as long as his excellency is safe. So death is the fate of Iraq as a whole. Now he wants to increase the number of graves, widows, and martyrs, as though Iraq had not suffered enough—including the loss of 250,000 martyrs in his war against Iran. That dictator is only concerned about remaining in power and being the only star on the television screens.

If there is anything good about any disaster, the good thing about Saddam's sinister action against us is that it has spared us and the Iraqi people, who are assailed by him, his repulsive picture, which he insisted that Iraq see all the time.

Now the reason is known: Abu-'Udayy [Saddam Husayn] fires his shots at the world from a secret shelter that protects him and his family alone from the fire which will come not from the United States or Britain, but from the heart of Iraq, where he will meet the same end as Hitler. In his bunker he will experience the last thing which a murderer experiences. Knight of the nation: I hope you will enjoy the fate which you have chosen—a leader hiding underground. He will realize that our victory comes from God and his defeat will be inflicted by the heroic Iraqi people. And the outcast will be driven out.

Mubarak, Japan's Nakayama Discuss Mideast Crisis

OW2208144190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1415 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, Aug. 22 KYODO—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said Wednesday that Arab arbitration to resolve the Gulf crisis is now extremely difficult.

He appealed for severe international sanctions against Iraq to force it to abide by the U.N. resolutions demanding its withdrawal from Kuwait.

In an 80-minute meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Mubarak criticized Iraq's August 2 invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait, according to Japanese officials.

Mubarak said Iraq's unpredictable moves had made it increasingly difficult for the Arab nations to arbitrate and solve the issue among themselves, as tensions were mounting with multinational forces on the alert for a possible military confrontation with Iraq.

Mubarak expressed high expectations for financial aid from Japan to Egypt, which since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis has suffered a fall in the flow of money from overseas, reduced fees from ships passing through the Suez Canal, and reduced tourist income.

Nakayama, who handed Mubarak a letter from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, promised economic assistance within the framework of the Japanese Constutition, which bans the use of military force to settle international disputes.

Mubarak said he understood the constitutional contraints on a Japanese military contribution to the forces in the Gulf and welcomed Kaifu's planned trip to the region in October.

Mubarak expressed strong distrust of Iraq, saying it must have planned the invasion of Kuwait for a long time. He also noted that some Arab nations either suspended their votes or abstained when the Arab League passed a resolution condemning Iraq in its meeting in Cairo on August 10. This made Arab efforts to end the crisis very difficult.

Mubarak accused Iraqi President Saddam Husayn of attempting to falsely portray the crisis as an Arab-U.S. confrontation, and said Egypt will not comply with such an attempt. He asked for cooperation from Japan and the United States to support Egypt in its negotiations concerning economic reforms with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has suspended loans to Egypt.

Citing the importance of cooperation between Egypt and the IMF, Nakayama said Japan will study the issue positively.

Nakayama later met his Egyptian counterpart Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid and agreed on the continuance of economic sanctions against Iraq.

Nakayama was due to leave later Wednesday for Turkey on the final leg of a five-nation tour of the region that earlier took him to Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Jordan. He is making the tour in place of Kaifu, who decided to remain in Tokyo due to developments in the Middle East. Nakayama is due to return home on Saturday.

Spokesman Holds News Conference

NC2208162890 Cairo MENA in English 1505 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, Aug 22 (MENA)—Japan today again declared its rejection of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and that it would continue its consultations with the rest of the world states to reach a concerted stand vis-a-vis Iraq. This came in statements made by the Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman at his today's press conference in Ramses Hilton Hotel here. The major seven industrialized states have adopted, since the Iraqi invasion, a unified stance towards Iraq, he said. Speaking of the serious challenge posed by the Iraqi invasion to the Middle East region and to world peace and order, he said that Japan took part, since the first day of invasion, in imposing sanctions against Iraq.

The spokesman further stressed the necessity of continuing, as much as possible, the imposition of economic sanctions against Iraq for the benefit of stability and order in the region. These measures have serious effects on Iraq, he said. The Japanese Foreign Minister clarified these facts to the presidents and leaders of Mideast states during his current tour of the region which took him to Saudi Arabia, Oman, Turkey, Jordan and Egypt. The Japanese Foreign Minister passed on a message to President Husni Mubarak from Kaifu during their meeting in Alexandria today.

President Mubarak voiced his hope to meet with Kaifu during his tour of the region in October, he said.

He, moreover, pointed out to Egypt's efforts to contain the Gulf crisis. He went on to say that the Japanese Constitution banned the dispatch of forces abroad but that Japan would assist those countries which were affected by the Gulf events and that it would take part in the international boycott measures against Iraq.

Libyan Labor Minister Arrives on Visit

NC1908154290 Cairo MENA in English 1445 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, August 19 (MENA)—Libyan Labour Minister [title as received] Ma'tuq Muhammad Ma'tuq arrived here today on a three-day visit during which he will hold talks with officials at the Ministries of Manpower, Insurance and Social Affairs. He will also tour the national institute for industrial safety within the framework of visits officials of the two countries exchange to promote bilateral labour relations. Minister of Manpower and Training 'Asim Abd-al-Haq welcomed the guest at the airport.

Opens Talks on Manpower

NC2108101090 Cairo MENA in English 2050 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, August 20 (MENA)—Egyptian-Libyan experts committees started their meetings here today to discuss means of promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of manpower.

Minister of Manpower and Training 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq and Libyan Minister of Labour Ma'tuq Muhammad Ma'tuq agreed at their yesterday's talks here on forming a joint technical committee.

The two sides also agreed on exchanging expertise and promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of vocational training, preparing information systems, planning the manpower and vocational safety.

The Libyan official arrived here yesterday on a few days' visit to Egypt.

Agreement Concluded

NC2208151790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1209 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—Egypt and Libya have agreed that Egypt will meet all the Libyan Jamahiriyah's requirements from all the Egyptian fields of specialization and expertise at the various Libyan work places. Manpower and Training Minister 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq said an agreement to that effect was signed with Ma'tuq Muhammad Ma'tuq, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Vocational Training (labor minister). He added that, under the agreement, the Libyan Committee for Vocational Training will compile data on the employment requirements of the Libyan organizations and institutions and then notify the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower of the Libyan Jamahiriyah's requirements as regards Egyptian expertise.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Manpower has stated that the ministry will not be responsible for the rights of any worker who leaves for Libya other than through the ministry.

Minister 'Abd-al-Haq signed the agreement with Ma'tuq last night. The Libyan official and his accompanying delegation left Cairo today after a four-day visit, during which the Libyan and Egyptian delegations agreed on cooperation and the exchange of expertise in the fields of manpower organization and vocational safety and health.

Morocco

King Hassan II Addresses Nation on Gulf Crisis

LD2108020990 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Address to the nation by King Hassan II; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] Praise be to God, prayers and peace be upon our master, the messenger of God, his family, and companions.

My dear people, every year on 20 August, you and I are accustomed to meet to exchange ideas, to discuss matters that concern us or matters that we need to study together, and to achieve their aims. [passage omitted]

How many times did we say in our youth that we were looking forward to the day when the sun of Arab unity would rise to give us light, and for us, from the [Atlantic] ocean to the Gulf, to embrace in order to outline plans for the future, to raise the Arabs' head, and to make the Arab feel honored, not for his wealth or for his gas; but because he has been able to link his present with his past. [passage omitted]

There is great sorrow in our hearts when we see what is surrounding the Arab family. I do not want to make the picture look bleaker than it is, and I do not want to have differences with myself or contradict my nature which is optimistic. However, unless optimism is put into the context of reality it becomes dangerous, because there would only be a small difference left between it and dreaming.

The crisis though which the Arab homeland and Arab peoples are passing is the most dangerous crisis in their lives. None of us, irrespective of our knowledge or analytical capabilities, can predict the future. Some see the future as black and bleak, while some see it as merely turbulent. However, no one sees this future as promising, sound, and healthy. [passage omitted in which King Hassan II says the present crisis threatens to be the fire which burns the green forest and urges the nation to teach the children how to love and live with their Arab neighbor]

My dear people, we should once again don our nationalist, not our Moroccan, but our Arab nationalist cloak so that we can reconcile our brothers and remain with legality. Thus, Morocco will, as always, remain the country of meetings and the homeland of brotherhood.

Since God the Almighty put me on the throne of my glorious predecessors, you can see that all the conferences which were held in our country, Morocco, had been conferences of reconciliation, brotherhood, optimism, and constructive work. We should, therefore, be prophets of tomorrow and not prophets of today or yesterday. We should treat the wounds; we should comfort the wounded; we should treat the hearts and souls. To be sure, this is a difficult task, because in some places hatred and exchanges or threats have reached their zenith. So, will our memory rise to the level of our existence? If we desire that, then our ability to forget should be bigger, greater, and broader than our ability to remember.

My dear people, on this blessed and happy day, without which we would not have been enjoying the joys of independence and sovereignty; on the occasion of this happy day, I was determined to address you on very important internal affairs. However, undoubtedly you are like me. The bitterness of the events experienced by our nation makes us unable to discuss any other subject, or to talk about anything else. We ask God to melt down this deadly killer frost which has been poured on us from the ocean to the Gulf. We ask God to put out this fire which we are afraid might burn the dry and the green. We ask God to provide us with wisdom, sanity, and levelheadedness so that we will not let loose our ruthlessness and so that we will not listen to those who want to get us embroiled. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Receives UAE Oil Minister

LD2008153190 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug.20 (MAP)—King Hassan II received Sunday afternoon at the Skhirat Royal Palace, summer resort to the south of Rabat, Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources of the United Arab Emirates Mani' Bin-Sa'id al-'Utaybah.

The audience was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali and Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri.

King Hassan Receives Special French Envoy

LD1408170690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] King Hassan II received late this morning at the royal palace in Skhirat Pierre Mauroy, the envoy of the French President to His Majesty the king. The king was flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Moulay Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rachid.

The french ambassador was accompanied by the french ambassador in Rabat and two close advisers. The audience was attended by Ahmed Reda Guedira, His Majesty's adviser; Abdellatif Filali, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; and Driss Basri, minister of interior and information.

Spanish Premier, King Discuss Gulf Crisis

LD2008161290 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 20 (MAP)—King Hassan II received Sunday [19 August] afternoon at the Royal Palace of Skhirat, summer resort to the south of Rabat, Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez who was accompanied by Spain's ambassador to Rabat.

Gonzalez, who left Morocco later in the afternoon at the end of a five day private visit, held a news conference at the Rabat-Sale Airport wherein he pointed out that Morocco and Spain are both animated by "a firm determination" to promote the steady and friendly relations binding them.

The two neighbouring countries share a common responsibility in a zone as important as the Mediterranean at the economic, political and strategic levels, Gonzalez said, underlining the two sides' willingness to consolidate their relations in matters of bilateral cooperation and of security in the Mediterranean.

He said his meeting with King Hassan II provided opportunity to stress the need to promote a new cooperation dynamics in light of the changes that affected east-west relations. He noted that given their geographical location, the two countries are called to examine all forms of cooperation. However, he added that cooperation in a so sensitive area should not be limited to a bilateral context but should have a multilateral dimension.

The Spanish prime minister said he reviewed with the sovereign bilateral relations as well as preparations for the upcoming Moroccan-Spanish summit scheduled for next November in Rabat. This summit, he said, will be preceded by the visit Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed will pay to Madrid in the near future.

As to the Gulf crisis, Gonzalez said the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is "a violation" of international law. After he pointed out that Morocco and Spain have similar stands on the conflict, Gonzalez called for the return to the status quo ante in Kuwait.

Regarding the dispatching of a Spanish contingent to the Gulf, Gonzalez said the issue will be debated during the [words indistinct] Union of Western Europe due in Paris Tuesday. The Union, gathering nine countries, is the European body that has competence in defense matters.

The Spanish media of the week-end largely commented on the prime minister's visit to Morocco and the opportunity it provides him to discuss with the sovereign all aspects of the Gulf conflict.

"The opinions and data provided by the sovereign will be of great use to Gonzalez", "the prime minister will learn a great deal on the Gulf crisis from his talks with King Hassan II", the Spanish media stated inter alia.

Habre, Al-Qadhdhafi Arrive for 'Working Visit'

LD2108215290 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Excerpts] It is already known that the Chadian and Libyan leaders Hissein Habre and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have arrived in Rabat on a working visit. The two distinguished guests were welcomed at Rabat Sala Airport by His Majesty King Hassan II, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Moulay Sidi Mohammed, and His Royal Highness Prince Miulay Rachid.

Here are the details of the welcome formalities:

At about 1830 this evening the Chadian president Hissein Habre arrived in Rabat on a working visit to our country. [passage omitted]

The working visit President Hissein Habre has begun comes within the framework of strengthening and bolstering the historical and contemporary relations between our two countries. [passage omitted]

Immediately after, the Libyan president, His Excellency Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived. He was welcomed by His Majesty the king. There was a warm embrace between the two leaders, His Majesty the king and Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid then shook hands with the Libyan leader. The Libyan leader is accompanied on this visit by an important delegation, which includes in particular: Major al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan leadership; Jadallah Azuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau; and Kamil Maqhur, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and advisor to the Libyan president. [passage omitted]

Hold Talks in Rabat

LD2208134490 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpt] An unexpected face-to-face meeting took place in Rabat this morning between Hissein Habre and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhdafi. They arrived in the Moroccan capital separately yesterday evening. These new negotiations, arranged by King Hassan II, could be the last chance to settle the territorial dispute between the two countries, the last chance before the case is put before the international courts. [passage omitted]

Socialist Opposition Communique on Gulf Crisis

LD1608144290 Rabat MAP in English 1353 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 16 -(MAP)—The Political Bureau of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP-Socialist Opposition) has denounced the concentration of foreign troops in the Gulf and particularly that of U.S. troops.

In a communique circulated today by the party's daily AL-ITTIHAD AL-ICHTIRAKI, the Politbureau pointed out that Iraqi proposals "can be considered as a platform for a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Gulf crisis for they open the way to reconsider the situation in Kuwait with the Security Council and the Arab League supervising the respect of commitments."

The USFP which followed with "deep worry, awareness, wisdom and responsibility the new and complex crisis" in the Arab Gulf hopes that the Maghreb, at the official and popular levels, will undertake practical and efficient initiatives for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Gulf and the re-establishment of peace in the region, the communique said.

The party calls on Maghreban leaders to join efforts and conduct a coordinated action for a comprehensive settlement of all the Middle East issues and particularly those of the Gulf and of Palestine.

Sudan

Government Lodges Protests on Ship Interception

EA2208221690 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1414 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 22 August (SUNA)—Sudan has rejected the principle of surrender and has [word indistinct] the need to persevere with the international move rejecting the principle of searching the Sudanese ship, Dunqullah, which was intercepted by one of the American (?units) in the Gulf of al-Aqaba. Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, chaired a Council of Ministers meeting today, and Mr. Muhammad Khojali Salihin, minister of culture and information and official government spokesman, said that Foreign Minister Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul had given a briefing on the latest developments regarding the Dunqullah ship. He said that the Sudanese ambassador in Washington had presented a protest note to the U.S. State Department and another protest note to the UN Security Council. He said our ambassadors abroad had embarked on a broad move in this respect.

Mr. Salihin said that in light of contacts made by our Foreign Ministry and the ambassadors abroad, the Council of Ministers decided to reject the principle of surrender and believe in the need to persevere with the international move which rejected the principle of searching the ship, particularly since there was a protocol between us and Jordan to the effect that our transport companies were using this sea route. Therefore, we should not accept America's conditions or any other conditions. He said that from the human perspective, the Council of Ministers had decided we must persevere with our efforts to extricate the Sudanese citizens from the Port of al-Aqaba in any way possible, because there are numerous women and children. [passage omitted]

No Military Bases Said at Iraqi Disposal

EA2308111890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] A well-informed source has denied recent press reports from some of the world's news media that the Sudanese Government had agreed to put some of its military bases at the Iraqis' disposal. The source added that these rumors are false and completely unfounded, and that there are no military aircraft of Iraq or any other foreign state to be found in Sudan. Some Arab and foreign newspapers, such as Egypt's WAFD and Kenya's DAILY NATION, carried these false reports.

At the end of his statement to SUNA, the source said that the truth of the above information can be confirmed by satellite to locate the presence of such aircraft, if any. The source invited the editors of the two named newspapers to visit Sudan to satisfy themselves regqrding this information.

'Huge Demonstration' Supports Saddam Husayn

EA1908142190 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Al-Ubayyid, 19 August (SUNA)—A huge demonstration was staged here yesterday to protest the intereference of the foreign forces in the internal affairs of the Arab countries and in support of the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The demonstration issued a statement addressed to the American ambassador to Sudan demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the foreign forces and respect of the Muslim holy shrines. It called for non-interference in the Arab affairs, the withdrawal of the Israelis from the Arab occupied territories, lifting the ban on the Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets in the U.S. banks. The deployment of the foreign troops in the Gulf would pose dangers to the international peace and security, the statement added.

SPLA Says Minister Set Travel Restrictions

EA2008205190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Reports reaching us from Khartoum say that the interior minister has given orders banning politicians, trade union members, and members of other parties from traveling abroad. Further reports from Khartoum say that the military regime of 'Umar al-Bashir has called on doctors to join forces with them. This came when the junta decided to sack some people within the forces.

In another development, reports from Khartoum say that the Muslim fundamentalists' economic policy has failed, and that survival has become very difficult because of the higher prices of essential commodities such as sugar and bread.

Official Claims Rebel Rifts, Israeli Support

EA1708214790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Major General, retired, 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, the minister of state at the Defense Ministry, has explained that the differences within the rebel movement have sharpened because the rebel leaders have split into supporters and opponents of the National Salvation Revolution's peace efforts. This has led to further arrests and individuals' escaping from the camps in the operational areas. He said eight outlaws have surrendered with all their equipment to the armed forces in the southern operational areas last week.

In a statement to SUNA, his excellency said the movement lacked freedom of decision because it was a dupe of foreign intervention, which provides it with equipment and training. He said the recent military operations in Equatoria had provided irrefutable evidence that Israel was equipping the rebels' planning operations. He confirmed that Sudan was in possession of documents confirming this. He added that the Armed Forces currently had the initiative in the operational theaters. They are able to move about in all areas, while the allegations of the rebel movement are nothing but psychological warfare.

Bahrain

Nation Praises Indian Stand on Gulf Crisis

BK2008162890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Bahrain has appreciated India's stand on the present gulf crisis. This was indicated to the energy and civil aviation minister, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, when he met the amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa; Prime Minister Khalifah ibn-Salman, and Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn-Salman, in Bahrain today. They assured them that all care will be taken of the Indian community in Bahrain. Mr. Khan also met the interior and trade minister of Bahrain who offered to sell the surplus kerosene and diesel oil to India. Mr. Khan told our gulf correspondent that an official delegation will be sent to Bahrain to finalize the details of the deal.

Kuwait

Exiled Ministers Reject Closure of Embassies

LD2208210990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwait, 22 August 90, SPA—A statement was issued today, Wednesday, on behalf of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers concerning the Iraqi occupation authorities' closure of the premises of diplomatic missions accredited to Kuwait. The following is the text of the statement, which was broadcast by Kuwait Radio:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In commenting on the announcement by the Iraqi occupation authorities concerning the decision on closure of premises of diplomatic missions accredited to the State of Kuwait and the waiving of diplomatic immunity granted to their personnel as of 24 August 1990, a responsible source at the Council of Ministers said the following:

While suffering the ordeals of the unjust Iraqi occupation, the State of Kuwait expresses its appreciation and pride in the honorable position of all the states of the world which adopted firm and decisive decisions at the Arab League, the United Nations Security Council, and the Islamic Conference Organization in condemning the Iraqi aggression, committing the aggressor to withdraw his forces immediately and unconditionally from Kuwaiti territory, and not recognizing the steps that were taken after the aggression.

While viewing the Iraqi insistence on closing the embassies accredited to the State of Kuwait as part of the effects of the invasion and occupation, the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers firmly regards that Iraqi announcement as void and stresses that it is considered a violation of all international laws and norms.

The State of Kuwait, which used to work hard to look after the diplomatic missions accredited to it and to surround them with complete respect and appreciation in accordance with international norms and laws, declares with sisterly and friendly countries its rejection of the aforementioned Iraqi announcement. It states that the best collective international reply would be to condemn again the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait and not to submit to the damage that resulted from it and the invalid measures that accompanied it, which are contrary to the most basic legal principles of international relations.

Swedish Citizens Leave; Ambassador To Remain

LD2308120690 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1030 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpt] According to the Foreign Ministry, a second convoy including Swedes (?will leave) Kuwait this morning for its journey toward the Iraqi-Turkish border. It is not quite clear how many of the Swedes left in Kuwait are now in the convoy, or if some have chosen to stay there. In the convoy there are also Swiss and Austrian citizens. The Swedish ambassador in Kuwait, Ingolf Kiesow, will stay there with first secretary (?Lars-Goeran Paulsson) [passage omitted]

UAE News Agency Carries KUNA Items

JN2308062690 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 20 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] As of yesterday, the United Arab Emirates news agency, WAM, has been carrying Kuwait News Agency, KUNA, items at various times during WAM transmission periods.

Oman

Japan's Foreign Minister Nakayama Arrives 19 Aug

OW1908234390 Tokyo KYODO in English 2318 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Salalah, Oman, Aug. 19 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in Oman on Sunday [19 Aug] to discuss the Gulf crisis with Sultan Qabus bin-Sa'id and other Omani Government officials.

Nakayama arrived in the Omani port of Salalah from Saudi Arabia on the second leg of a five-nation, eight-day Middle East tour of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Egypt and Turkey.

Qatar

Council of Ministers Holds Weekly Meeting

NC2208153790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Doha, 22 Aug (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has expressed its support for [words indistinct] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to the Iraqi leadership to withdraw its troops from Kuwait in order to avoid bloodshed and safeguard the Arab nation and its future. This came during the weekly meeting of the Qatari

Council of Ministers under His Highness the Amir Shaykh Khalifah bin-Hamad Al Thani.

The council considered this responsible pan-Arab position on the part of the Egyptian president to be in line with the role that Egypt has been playing throughout Arab and Islamic history in terms of warding off dangers and facing up to challenges against the nation.

The Council of Ministers reiterated Qatar's demand for the Iraqi troops to pull out of Kuwait, the return of the legitimate government under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to Kuwait, and the (?implementation) of the decisions issued by [word indistinct] the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Security Council, and the emergency Arab summit that was held recently in Cairo.

The council then approved a number of decisions, including that related to Qatar's participation in the fourth session of the GCC education ministers meeting slated to take place in Riyadh on 13 and 14 October.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Ministry Denies Airspace Violation

LD2308025490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0145 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Riyadh 22 [date as received] Aug (SPA)—An official source at the Defense and Aviation Ministry denied the report transmitted by the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that two aircraft coming from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia penetrated Iraqi airspace. The source added in its statement to SPA today that the report was unfounded and that the Saudi aircraft did not fly beyond their airspace, to which they always confine themselves, while flying in Saudi skies.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah Visits Military Front

LD2208152790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz—the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard—left Jeddah on 20 August. His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz has arrived in the front where the Saudi forces are positioned. He was met by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, Amir of the Eastern Region, His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces, and a number of officials and military officers.

Returns From Bases

LD2208183890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 22 Aug (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz—the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard—arrived in Jeddah this afternoon from the Saudi armed forces' bases at the front after making an inspection tour. [passage omitted]

Turkish Envoy Delivers Ozal Message to King

LD2308043190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2247 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 22 Aug 1990 (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud—may God safeguard him—received a message from his excellency the Turkish president, Turgut Ozal. It was delivered to the king by his excellency Gunes Taner, the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs, when he received him in his office at the al-Salam palace today. The audience was attended by his excellency Hisham Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, and the Turkish ambassador to the Kingdom.

The Turkish minister arrived in Jeddah this evening. He was received at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by his excellency Hisham Nazir, a representative of royal protocol, and the Turkish ambassador to the Kingdom.

Foreign Minister Receives Pakistani Official

LD2208225790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 22 Aug (SPA)—His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conferred this evening at the palace of conferences in Jeddah with his excellency the Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the delegation accompanying him on a visit to the Kingdom. During the meeting they reviewed the current developments in the area and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

PLO Radio on 'Zionist Soldiers' in Country

NC1708171290 Sanaa Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] There are 200 Zionist soldiers, including some Zionist rabbis, on Saudi territory. The Zionist army radio confirmed this today in its Hebrew newscast. The radio said that there are 200 Zionist soldiers as well as a number of Zionist rabbis among the U.S. forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The army radio cited official U.S. sources as saying that no soldiers have been barred from joining the forces because of their religious beliefs, as they put it.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Receives Message From Thatcher

JN1808145090 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates

[UAE], has received a message from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher dealing with the current developments in the Gulf region. The message was delivered by Alan Clark, British minister of state for defense procurement, when his highness the president received him and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces; Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwayli, representative of his highness the president; Shaykh Surur Bin-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, head of the Presidential Diwan; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, Armed Forces chief of staff; Khamis al-Rumaythi, head of the President's Office; and the British Ambassador to the UAE.

UK Minister of State Meets Heir Apparent

NC1808111290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Aug (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and supreme commander of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Armed Forces, met this morning with Alan Clark, British minister of state for defense procurement, who is visiting the UAE. They discussed regional developments and reviewed the ties of cooperation and friendship between the UAE and Britain.

Meets With Kuwaiti Ambassador

NC2108141090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 21 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Sahykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent and deputy higher commander of the Armed Forces, has reiterated his country's support for the State of Kuwait, the victim of an totally unjustified perfidious aggression. He expressed his regret over the injustice, tyranny, and banishment to which the Kuwaiti people have been subjected.

This came during a meeting today between Shaykh Khalifah and Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Muhammad Sa'ud Zayn Bin-al-Mi'. [passage omitted]

Yemen

King Husayn Arrives in Sanaa, Makes Statement

JN2308125690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpts] At 1400 today His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrived at Sanaa International Airport on a visit to our country.

Leading those who were on hand to receive the king were brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council; brothers Presidential Council members; Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Council of Representatives; brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister; the deputy prime ministers; brother Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister and head of the escort mission accompanying His Majesty King Husayn; and brother Muhammad al-Qur'an, Jordanian charge d'affaires to our country. [passage omitted]

After a brief rest at the VIP lounge, His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan made a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA' saying: As a matter of fact, these are the most difficult circumstances that the nation has faced so far. There is no need for me to go into details, all of which are well known to our people, to our brothers, and to all Arabs in the entire greater homeland. However, I am confident that if we walk the shortest path, the attainment of our objectives and goals is inevitable., God willing, we will make strides toward securing the nation's pride and glory. The nation's standing will improve, God willing. And this, God willing, will benefit us all.

His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal is accompanied by a high-ranking delegation comprising brothers Mudar Badran, prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to His Majesty King Husayn.

Salih Receives Soviet Envoy, Message on Crisis

JN2008150790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received in his office today Soviet envoy Mikhail Sytenko, who conveyed to the brother president a message from the Soviet leadership on the serious developments in the Arabian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula as a result of the U.S.-Western escalation; the dispatch of more fleets, aircraft, warships, and all types of U.S.-Western military hardware; the threat to pan-Arab security; and Arab diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully within an Arab framework. The Soviet leaders' message included the Soviet Union's position on the matter and its concern to spare the region the dangers of a military explosion that might threaten security and stability in the region and endanger world peace.

Brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih asked the Soviet envoy to convey a reply to the Soviet leaders explaining our country's position on the crisis and briefing them on the efforts under way to avert a military explosion and to resolve problems peacefully. The meeting was attended by brother Dr. Shayi' Muhsin, deputy foreign minister, and Veniamin Popov, Soviet ambassador.

U.S. 'Carnage' in Eastern Saudi Arabia Denounced

JN1908122190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0907 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Sanaa, 19 Aug (INA)—The Union of the Peoples of the Arabian Peninsula and the Solomon's Province [al-mikhlaf al-sulaymani] General Secretariat has denounced the brutal carnage perpetrated by the imperialist and Zionist occupation force against demonstrators in the cities and villages of the eastern area of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

In a statement distributed here today, the General Secretariat said the invading U.S. and Zionist forces have committed bloody carnage against the sons of the [Arabian] Peninsula and the Solomon's Province in the cities and villages of the eastern area who proceeded in a peaceful march expressing their rejection of the foreign military presence on Arab lands.

The statement added that these forces opened fire at unarmed citizens, killing tens of martyrs with the treacherous and invading U.S. bullets and with the blessing and support of the traitor of the two holy mosques and the traitorous Al Sa'ud family, who opened the ports of the country to the forces of the enemies and their defilement of the pure lands.

The General Secretariat also held the traitorous apostates of Al Saud responsible for this crime and called on the international community and the United Nations to stand by the sons of the [Arabian] Peninsula and to denounce the aggression on Arab citizens.

The General Secretariat added that, through their calling of their U.S. and Zionist masters, the traitors do not aim to protect security and stability but to enable U.S. imperialism and Zionism and the Crusader alliance to finally and completely take hold of the wealth of the Arab nation and to use its territory to aggress on Arab masses in any country which refuses to comply.

Minister, Sudanese Official Return From Amman

*JN1908173890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] Brothers Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister, and Yusuf Sa'id, political adviser to the chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] in Sudan, today returned to Sanaa after they conveyed a joint message today from brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah salih, Presidential Council chairman, and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, NSRCC chairman, to their brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Official Assures Oil Supplies Sufficient

*EA1708205090 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 17 Aug 90*

[Text] Brother Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Su'aydi, head of the Public Corporation for Oil and Mineral Resources Affairs, has explained that our country will not be affected by the problem of oil products, scarcity of world production of oil, or price rises due to the Gulf crisis. He said there was therefore no reason for citizens to gather at petrol stations for fear of a future crisis. He also said our country's situation is excellent in that it has become clear that existing oil stocks will suffice to meet consumption for a long time and supplies continue to come in. Accordingly, all oil products are available and no crisis will occur in the future.

The brother head of the Public Corporation for Oil and Mineral Resources Affairs added in a statement to AL-SADIS WA AL-'ISHRIN MIN SEPTEMBER [publication name as heard] published last night that our country relied on its plans to diversify its sources, in addition to the fact that our country's oil production suffices to meet local needs. He said the Aden refinery produces 185,000 barrels daily, while local demand does not exceed 50,000 barrels a day. He stressed that Yemeni oil is deemed to be the world's best.

Salih Sends Message to Iranian President

*JN1808181290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, and brother Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, today received brother (?Wahid Farmand), the Iranian charge d'affaires in Sanaa. The president asked the Iranian envoy to convey an urgent message to his brother Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Iranian leadership dealing with the serious developments witnessed in the region in light of the foreign military presence. The message also deals with the positive developments in Iraqi-Iranian relations.

Demonstrators Protest Foreign Troops in Gulf

*JN1808200490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] There were mass demonstrations in the cities of Sawyun and al-Mukalla today staged by citizens from various districts in Wadi Hadramawt and al-Mukalla and by leaders of the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, mass organizations, trade unions, and professional associations to protest against the foreign military presence in Arab lands and waters in the Gulf. They were also staged in support of the Iraqi peace initiative to resolve the crisis in the region and our country's efforts and endeavors to contain and resolve the crisis peacefully within the Arab context and away from any foreign intervention.

Two Aircraft Penetrate Iraqi Airspace

JN2208195890 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1946 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1104 [0704 GMT] today, two aircraft coming across southern Iraq from the direction of Saudi Arabia penetrated Iraqi airspace for five km at an altitude of 11 km and a speed of 700 km per hour.

[Dated] Baghdad, 22 August 1990

Some French, Japanese Nationals Allowed To Leave

JN2208162990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1619 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The speaker of the National Assembly has announced a further goodwill gesture represented by the approval of the representatives of people at the National Assembly that a number of foreigners be allowed to travel outside Iraq.

In a statement, the National Assembly speaker said: In the hope that some parties will be deterred from following in the footsteps of the erratic U.S. position against Iraq and to enable others to reconsider acts that undermine Iraqi interests and harm Iraqis, the representatives of the people at the National Assembly decided today to allow a number of French and Japanese nationals to travel outside Iraq.

France Urged Not To Link Interests With U.S.

JN2308104690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—In appreciation of the heritage of friendship between the Iraqi and French peoples, of the French Government's positive and even-handed positions at difficult circumstances that Iraq had undergone in the past, and of the French politicians who still realize their country's interest in perpetuating relations with Iraq; and in order to expose the designs of the Zionist lobby, which is pushing the French Government into adopting hasty and unbalanced stands toward Iraq, it was decided to allow a number of French nationals to leave Iraq.

The National Assembly speaker expressed hope that France would appreciate its national interests in accordance with a legitimate perspective and refrain from linking these interests to the aggressive U.S. polices in the region. He further expressed hope that France would take into consideration, as it did in previous occasions, the true feelings and positions of the Arab people and the nationalist Arab countries and forces, and not link its stance and interests to the stances of the corrupt regimes that are isolated from their peoples.

'Text' of Saddam's Cables to Iranian Leader

JN2008114890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Aug 90

["The President Hashemi-Rafsanjani Letters"—INA headline]

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn sent a cable of condolences on 21 June 1990 to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the earthquake victims and losses in the city of Rasht and others areas in Iran. The following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
Mr. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani,
President of the Republic, Tehran
Peace be upon you:

The victims and losses caused by the earthquake in the city of Rasht and other areas have evoked extreme regret for what has afflicted Iran. On behalf of the Iraqi leadership and the Iraqi people, I extend our condolences to you, the Iranian leadership, the Iranian people, and the relatives of the bereaved families. We declare our readiness to extend any aid you deem appropriate. To God we belong and to Him is our return.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, President of the Republic of Iraq
[Dated] 21 June 1990, corresponding to 28 Dhu al-Hijjah, 1410 Hegira

President Saddam Husayn sent a cable to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 16 July 1990. The following is the text:

And say: Work righteousness; Soon will God observe your work, and his apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verse]

Mr. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani,
President of the Republic
Peace upon you:

In order to expedite the peace process, we would like to send an envoy from us to you to meet you for discussions on the establishment of peace between our countries and to learn from you about all that would facilitate the task of decisionmaking in both Iraq and Iran.

We do not mind that the visit of our envoy be declared or undeclared, as you wish. It is God who grants success.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn
[Dated] 24 Dhu al-Hijjah 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 16 July 1990, Baghdad

President Saddam Husayn sent a cable on 30 July 1990 to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The following is the text:

Mr. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani,
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Peace be upon you;

After an in-depth consideration of what should be considered, and after a detailed review of the development of relations and state of affairs between Iraq and Iran and of the dangers posed to the region, and in pursuance of our role of proposing initiatives that provide wider chances for the achievement of peace, we found ourselves—in accordance with our national responsibility and the human responsibility placed on our shoulders by our great principles—duty bound to propose a new initiative.

Since our initiative this time addresses within one framework and in detail all the substantive issues enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution No. 598, it is hoped it will be approached in this light and seriously enough not to deny our two peoples the opportunity to live in peace, the details of which we will have to work out so as to forestall enemy plans to push our two countries back to the pre-25 August 1988 state of affairs with the result that neither of us will have anything to gain.

The treacherous forces of darkness, given that the war between the two countries has not legally ended, may be tempted to reignite it. As you know, just as a huge blaze may be started by a spark, the war between us may be reignited by what may initially seem to be a trivial affair, and the sinister forces who are lying in wait might be tempted by their powerlessness to embroil the two countries or one of them in a war. They might be alarmed by the two countries' stockpiles of weapons, and they might be interested to learn about the performance of all or some of these arms and so incite someone to spark war using their cunning, given a land border 1,200 kms long and sea borders 800 kms long.

With the potential there for a major flare up, given the massive array of weapons, it need not be supposed that there must be one. However, the possibility remains that somehow or other and under this or that influence, someone may open fire and thus drag the whole army along with him. The result would thus be the greater loss to all of us and gain to the ill-intentioned, as we have already pointed out.

Since such a development is the wish of neither Iraq nor Iran as has been made plain by their representatives, we are duty bound not just to attain peace but to do it as soon as possible, in order to foil the dreams of darkness and evildoers.

Accordingly, I propose the following:

1. I am relaunching the proposal of a prompt meeting between the heads of state of the two countries in a place to be agreed upon to work out the terms for a comprehensive and durable peace.

2. The discussions and agreement should address all outstanding issues. It will not be acceptable for either side to raise any issue without the approval of the other side once the comprehensive agreement is concluded. Otherwise it will count as a violation of the agreement. Whatever subsidiary details are subsequently worked out must be based on Resolution No. 598. It must be understood that the idea of the resolution is the establishment of comprehensive and durable peace only through dialogue and that the components of the agreement should be part of an indivisible whole and in the form of an integrated interrelated package and that the breach of any of its articles will count as a breach of all of its articles.

3. It should be immaterial which subjects are chosen to initiate the dialogue. But agreement on one or some of the points at issue will be subject to agreement on the other points and according to item 2 of this letter. Accordingly, each of the two interlocutors will have the right to respond to any unilateral announcement by the other as its deems fit, including the right to reject the partial agreement on any of the items of the dialogue.

4. The withdrawal should take place within a maximum of two months from the date of the final ratification of the comprehensive agreement we work out, and the shorter the period the better. Every step taken by either of the two parties to the dispute should be coordinated with the other side and there should be reciprocal commitment to implementation.

5. We still look at the POW issue as being governed by the Geneva Conventions. We, therefore, assume that their release should have been completed in accordance with the articles of this agreement. Two years have passed since the ceasefire, during which time their release should have been completed under this agreement. Notwithstandingly, and to facilitate the peace process, and according to the bases indicated, there is no reason why agreement should not be reached on a prisoner release timetable within the period specified in Article 4 (no later than two months) beginning with the final ratification date, and preferably sooner.

6. Dialogue on the Shatt al-'Arab must be conducted under the following three headings:

a. Iraq should have complete sovereignty as a legitimate historical right.

b. Iraq should have sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab and the Thalweg line law should be applied regarding navigational rights between Iraq and Iran including the fishing rights, joint administration of navigation, and splitting profits thereof.

c. The referral of the Shatt al-'Arab issue to arbitration according to a formula to be worked out by the two sides, with each committing itself to prior abidance by its ruling. Pending the resolution of the issue through arbitration, the Shatt al-'Arab is to be cleared so as to make it fit for navigation in accordance with a formula to be devised by the two sides.

Agreement will be on the understanding that the two sides will together decide on any of the three headings listed above, considering that the first heading represents Iraq's right and that the second and third headings represent Iran's wish.

7. We could agree to drop paragraph six of Resolution 598 from the discussion and even ignore this paragraph

completely, because it is of no benefit to peace; indeed, it hinders peace, and its results may lead to rancor, hatred, and revenge in the future, while peace between the Iraqi and Iranian peoples requires a different course. The UN secretary general should be informed officially and in writing of the agreement we may reach.

8. None of the above steps, which will be contained in the peace agreement between Iraq and Iran, should be implemented before all legislative procedures to approve it have been completed in accordance with the constitutions of both countries. This would make these steps legally and constitutionally final, valid, and irrevocable, in part or in total. Instruments of ratification should be deposited with the UN secretary general at a specific time agreed upon by the two parties.

9. The new peace agreement between Iraq and Iran should include everything we agreed upon. For a speedy achievement of the peace agreement, it may contain—together with the new topics and the issues of the land border and other rights—some points in earlier agreements between the two countries without this affecting the items mentioned in this letter.

10. The agreements should include clear principles as to the establishment of relations of good neighborliness, noninterference in internal affairs, mutual respect of the options of both sides in terms of the political, economic, and social systems, and unequivocal recognition of the freedom of navigation in all its forms in international waters in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

11. It might be appropriate that an international party approved by the Security Council guarantee the best implementation of the agreement.

12. Although we know that the international situation does not warrant us attaching great hopes to receiving assistance for the reconstruction process, we are of the view that international assistance provided in accordance with paragraph seven be divided equally between Iraq and Iran.

13. To facilitate contacts between us, and in light of the positive developments in our relations, we believe that we should reopen our embassies in Tehran and Baghdad, especially since they remained open during the war and were closed only in September 1987.

This, Mr. President, is what appeared to us as something that can achieve lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran. It is an integrated and indivisible proposal inspired by our experience and the talks between our representatives in Geneva, Naseri and Barazan.

With this, everything will have become clear, leaving no room for misinterpretation of the rapid, genuine, and comprehensive peace we are looking for.

God is great.
With best wishes to you, and through you to the Iranian leadership.
[Signed] Saddam Husayn, President of the Republic of Iraq

[Dated] 8 Muharram 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 30 July 1990, Baghdad.

Envoy Leaves Algiers for Mauritania With Message

JN2208160290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 22 Aug (INA)—Education and Scientific Research Minister Mundhir Ibrahim, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, left for the Mauritanian capital at noon today.

The envoy of his excellency the president is carrying a message on events and developments in the Arabian Gulf region and the serious threat to peace and security the U.S. military presence in the Arab region signifies.

The envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn had earlier handed a written message to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on events and developments in the Arab region.

Popular Army Camps 'Crowded With Volunteers'

JN2208135090 Baghdad INA in English 1155 GMT 22 AUG 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 22, INA—Popular army training camps throughout the country have been crowded with volunteers who are receiving training on various types of arms to join the regular army to face the American-Zionist aggression against Iraq.

So far more than half a million volunteers have been registered in the central Iraqi provinces of Diyala, Salah al-Din and al-Anbar.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of peple the province of al-Muthanna reported to the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party offices as volunteers. A party official there said a comprehensive plan has been drawn up to train volunteers on various types of military techniques.

Assistant commander of the Popular Army in the Euphrates region expressed readiness to defend the country against foreign threats just like those ancestors who, in 1920, fought against the British occupation of Iraq.

In the northern Dahuk Province, thousands of people reported to party offices as Popular Army fighters.

Muhammad Hamzah Hasan, a fighter said that as soon as President Saddam Husayn ordered the formation of popular army units earlier in August, hundreds of thousands of volunteers reported to party offices and started training.

In the district of Hawijah, al-Ta'mim Province, the number of volunteers reached 31,000. A volunteer said two popular army units have completed their training and are ready for defending the country against any aggression, while a third is still training.

Interviewed by INA volunteers expressed readiness to defend the country. They condemned the American-Zionist aggression against Iraq and the siding by the Saudi Arabian and Egyptian regimes with the aggressors.

Paper Assails Saudi Call For OPEC Meeting

JN2008110690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has vehemently denounced the call the rulers of Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] are sponsoring to hold an emergency OPEC meeting before the ordinary meeting that is to be held in November.

In an article today, the paper says that the purpose of this call sponsored by the rulers of Hijaz and opposed by most of the OPEC members is to force the OPEC countries to give the U.S. forces of occupation free meal tickets of oil.

The paper adds that Iraq's opposition to this call, which serves the immediate interests of the U.S. forces of aggression and the foreign forces that side with it, is being explicitly supported by most OPEC member countries, the countries that take pride in their oil resources and devote their revenues to economic and cultural development plans, the realization of the requisites of national independence, and the liberation of their countries from the yoke of slavery and the exploitation of the imperialist cartels.

The paper says that the excuse put forth by Fahd to convene an emergency meeting to bring about an oil glut will cause a new collapse in the price of crude oil which will only benefit the United States and its allies. This explicitly means that the U.S. military campaign will be financed by funds stolen from Arab resources.

The paper explains that the despicable behavior of the Hijaz rulers confirms their involvement in the oil conspiracy that they have concocted with U.S. imperialism to weaken Iraq in preparation for the new conspiracy of massing fleets and military forces in the Arabian Gulf to impose military blockade against Iraq with the help of military might.

The paper stresses that the behavior of the Hijaz rulers, who squandered the funds from Arab oil on their pleasures and immoral actions and used their funds and resources to support the U.S. forces of aggression, has been exposed to the world at large. The stand that will ultimately triumph will be the stand that is eager to safeguard the peoples' interests, a stand that at the same time opposes the forces of U.S. aggression.

Soviet Coverage of Hammadi's Visit To Moscow

WA2208173190

For USSR coverage of Iraqi Deputy Premier Sa'dun Hammadi's visit to Moscow, including his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 22 August Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Shamir Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

TA2208200390 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1841 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yoram Ronen and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin, on the weekly "Moqed" program, at the prime minister's office—live]

[Text] [Ronen] We are in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem. Good evening, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Ronen] Good evening to my colleague 'Imanu'el Halperin. Mr. Shamir, almost three weeks have passed since the crisis in the Gulf broke out and you have made almost no comment, within the framework of the government's declared policy to maintain as low a profile as possible. Are we, today as well, passive viewers from the sidelines, in a waiting period, or are we in Israel preparing for some action?

[Shamir] I believe that in fact the matter is clear. We all know that this storm now raging in the Middle East initially began as an act of war by an Arab country against another Arab country; Iraq invaded Kuwait. What followed is well known: The United States intervened, Arab states and the whole Western world and, as President Bush said today, the whole Western community is standing against Iraq. Israel was not involved in any way in this storm from the start, not at any stage or step. We live and exist in the Middle East, and we had no part in this storm. No one can blame Israel for playing any role whatsoever, of having plotted anything. We are watching anxiously and with interest.

[Ronen] You say we were not involved in this storm when it began. What is happening now, three weeks after it broke out?

[Shamir] It is clear that there are those who want to drag us into this whirlpool. They have an interest. It is Iraq. It is Saddam Husayn. He wants Israel to become an element in this confrontation so that he will be able to present this war as an Israeli-Arab war. The whole Arab world will then have to stand by his side. This, despite the fact that there is no reason for it; that it has no basis; lies are being disseminated that Israeli soldiers are taking part in the U.S. operation in Saudi Arabia. Israeli pilots in disguise, Israeli planes that changed their colors. This is a lie, of course. This lie has no basis, but it has one aim: To prove to the world, and primarily to the Arab world, that the war is also against, or perhaps mainly against, Israel. Israel has no interest in helping Saddam Husayn to get Israel involved in this conflict.

[Halperin] Yes, sir, but the government is saying that it is following with interest, to use your term, that it is watching, following closely, that it is on the alert. It seems that one word has gone out of the dictionary—worry. Is the government worried? Are we allowed to be worried

[Shamir] Certainly we are worried. We have to be, because that element that wants us in the whirlpool, no matter what, is capable of doing something against us as well. We must be prepared for that possibility, and we must be prepared to oppose it and prevent it, to defend ourselves.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, you say that the government is worried. It seems to me that the public is worried as well. We have no indicator of the level of the public's sensitivity. We saw on the television news tonight several people speaking about this on the streets in Jerusalem. I would say that there is no panic, but there is some fear, some degree of uncertainty. Could it be because of the lack of information, or because the reports indicate the government's stand seems to be changing daily; could it be because of the feeling that someone is much too indifferent while he is trying to calm the public?

[Shamir] I do not believe that there is indifference. Naturally there is concern. Who would not worry when he witnesses this horrible confrontation happening before our very eyes, engulfing almost the whole world? Everyone knows the dangers. We all know who we are dealing with here. At the same time there is a feeling of security. The people of Israel know that someone is taking care of them. The Israelis know that their state, the State of Israel, is not defenseless. Israelis know that the Israeli Army is defending them. It is a strong, organized army, equipped with the best weapons, the best and most updated technologies. This army will defend Israel in time of emergency. And it is ready; it is ready.

[Ronen] Is this a time of emergency?

[Shamir] This is a time of emergency. It is possible that nothing will happen, but we must be ready for every possibility. I also believe that those elements which perhaps aspire—because of their desire to drag us into this whirlpool—to attack Israel, know very well that if they dare, they will pay a terrible price. Israel is experienced in loss of life and suffering, and it will not play with its fate.

[Halperin] To continue the question posed by Yoram Ronen, concerning the gas masks affair. The issue is on the agenda mainly because of the publicized debate between the foreign and the defense ministers. Why did the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs not decide today whether to distribute the masks? Why did you decide to set up a subcommittee? The very phrase—we will set up a committee—is interpreted by the public as an intention to put off the decision or perhaps not make any decision.

[Shamir] Look, this is not a matter of principle. If the need arises, we will distribute them. The question is when will this need arise; and how should they be distributed; and what should be done before that. We trust the defense establishment to work diligently to improve and upgrade the means for the rear defense, including the masks. Because a debate arose, and I believe it should not have, I decided that there will be a body of several ministers which will work with the defense system and decide together how and when to operate. The committee was not set up to delay things. It was set up to make the right decisions at the right time.

[Halperin] A decision, however, was not made today. Has the government made any decisions—since the crisis broke out three weeks ago—about the situation, or are we left sitting on the sidelines and watching?

[Shamir] We are not passive. Whatever the government does or does not do is a result of a decision, a policy that has been decided on that is being stipulated everyday. This may not appear daily in the media, but we are stipulating our path. We are in touch with various elements. The picture you see is a result of decisions.

[Ronen] With your permission, Mr. Prime Minister, just a minute on the issue of the gas masks. Does the decision, or lack of decision, reached today mean that you in fact support the defense establishment's position that there is no vital need to distribute the gas masks now, contrary to the foreign minister's position that it should be done immediately?

[Shamir] There is no dispute on this. There are facts that should be known, and we must make a decision based on the data regarding the best method for how, when, and where to distribute that item or some other item. There is no dispute between me and the foreign minister or other ministers. There was no dispute today in the ministerial committee.

[Ronen] But the foreign minister demanded that the gas masks be distributed now.

[Shamir] That happened in the cabinet meeting—he has the right to express his opinion—and a small debate followed as a result. Today the ministers heard a review, and afterward I said that I have decided to set up a committee, and everybody agreed on the need for a committee. It will convene and decide. The citizens of Israel can be sure that the right thing will be done in time.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, to what extent is there a real danger of missiles being fired? This morning we heard a report that the Iraqis advanced missile batteries toward the Jordanian border. Defense sources in Israel said some time ago that the Iraqis do not have the capability to launch missiles with chemical warheads. Do the Iraqis also know that?

[Shamir] Look, the authoritative institutions, especially the Army authorities, are continuously discussing everything that is happening. They receive reports, analyze them, and transmit them to the political echelon, and we decide on what and how to act. There are various reports, but I do not believe we have to inform the public, and through the public, other elements, what we know and what we do not know. We are doing our job and are trying to learn all that is required. That is all.

[Ronen] Perhaps the public should be informed if, for instance, there is a reassuring report that the Iraqis do not have the capability of launching missiles with chemical warheads.

[Shamir] We do not have to provide the public with superfluous reports. We will tell the public what it must know.

[Halperin] Sir, there is something that you nevertheless say: We are concerned about the situation in Jordan. The foreign minister sent a reassuring message to King Husayn via the Italian foreign minister. You said yesterday that you want the Jordanian regime to remain stable and for King Husayn to keep the reins. Why this concern for the fate of the Hashemite regime, for King Husayn? Do we want to look after him so much?

[Shamir] It is clear to all: Jordan is a neighboring country, if any war breaks out, if there is any confrontation, it could come via Jordan, perhaps with the aid of Jordan. We have a long border with Jordan. It has always been in Israel's interest to keep that border quiet, totally quiet, as far as possible. Today, King Husayn is under special duress, he is wavering, he is trying to find his way. He knows that he does not face any danger from Israel, although he attacks us and he makes statements to the contrary. He has reasons for doing that, but he knows the real truth. Israel is interested in its neighbor Jordan being a stable and solid country, in the King sitting on his throne, for him to have control, and for the war not to reach us via Jordan. The king has suddenly discovered the Zionist movement and its great strength to influence the international media and policy makers. If it were only true. Nevertheless, perhaps I should call Mr. Dinitz [chairman of the World Zionist Organization] tomorrow and invite him over and ask him where he has been and impose several tasks on him.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, let us return to the Jordanian issue. Until several weeks ago there was a thesis acceptable to people in the Likud, and not only in the Likud, that Jordan is in fact a Palestinian state. Perhaps it could be if the Hashemite Dynasty stops ruling it?

[Shamir] Look, there is no contradiction between the concept of the people who think that Jordan—the neighboring Arab country east of Israel, with the majority of the population Palestinian Arabs—is an expression of the self-determination of the Palestinian Arabs. If you believe that statement it does not contradict the awareness, the need for King Husayn to continue to head that country. There is no contradiction between the two things.

[Halperin] Husayn, king of the Palestinians, then?

[Shamir] There is no contradiction between the two. You know, when Husayn's grandfather, 'Abdallah, declared Jordan's independence, when he received independence from the British, he thought of calling his country Falastin, Palestine. He withdrew that idea upon the advice of his British advisers. Let us just think what would have happened had the country we now call Jordan been named Palestine. Many things might have been prevented.

[Halperin] Sir, it seems that since the crisis broke out that an idyllic situation exists between us and the Americans. You received a very friendly message from President Bush, the dispute over the political process has been frozen, and perhaps is even in a deep freeze, because of the PLO position. There are reports about an astonishing improvement in Israel's image among the U.S. public. All that is well and good, but at the same time we are being left out of the picture. We are not participating in this international effort. We kept saying all the time: We are a strategic asset for the United States; we are vital for the free world. The free world is managing quite well on its own without us. Is it possible that after this crisis is solved this situation could harm us, that we will be looked at differently?

[Shamir] First, I never said we are anybody's strategic asset. We are ourselves. We must look after ourselves. It is an objective fact, however, that we are the only democratic country in this part of the world, that we have many and deep joint interests with the United States. That is a fact. This cooperation should be implemented according to the circumstances, sometimes more, sometimes less. Sometimes this cooperation calls for keeping mum, not doing anything. When the circumstances change, we might also have to change tactics, our behavior. The main thing is that there is agreement between us and the United States on this behavior.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, various world leaders, and public figures in the United States as well, have recently said more than once that a military confrontation between the United States and Iraq is unavoidable. Is that your view, as well?

[Shamir] I do not have to be a commentator; I look after Israel's interests. I study the various possibilities. I ask myself: What will Israel have to do if there is a military confrontation between Iraq and the United States, and what will it have to do if there is no confrontation? That is the question that concerns me. Who can predict whether or not there will be a confrontation?

[Ronen] That also interests us. What will we do if there is a military confrontation between Iraq and the United States?

[Shamir] That is a question of conditions, of our interests and those of the United States at that moment. The United States today also is deeply interested for Israel not to appear as an active partner in this confrontation in order not to drive away all the Arabs who are today standing by the United States. Israel knows that. At the same time, the United States knows full well that when Israel is hit, when somebody attacks us, we will not sit with folded arms.

[Halperin] Sir, I would like nevertheless to ask you to be somewhat of a commentator. Suddenly we are facing a different Middle East, a new Arab world. Suddenly, extremist Syria joins the moderate camp, on the same side as Egypt and the United States. After the good guys win—on the assumption that the good guys do win—will that situation open up new options for us, new chances for political negotiations?

[Shamir] Well, there is nothing eternal in politics, neither internal nor external. Today we are witnessing far-reaching changes not only in the Middle East. There has been a revolutionary change with the polarization, the conflict between the two superpowers, fading away. Since we now have only one superpower, it is an enormous change and will certainly have an influence on us. It already has had an influence and will have an influence in the future. The changes you mentioned—Syria's position, perhaps the stand of others—is only the beginning. I do not believe that we can already draw conclusions and say what we will do, what they will do, what initiatives there will be. Let us first see how things develop. Anyway, we must be ready for any change.

[Ronen] That also includes the Middle East, which it can be assumed is not the same as before the crisis?

[Shamir] Certainly, certainly.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, we have referred to Syria. You sent messages and signals to President al-Asad. Up to now, you have not yet received satisfactory replies. Do you intend to continue the efforts to reach an agreement with Syria in accordance with the thesis you have often referred to that peace with Arab countries must be achieved before an agreement is reached with the Palestinians?

[Shamir] I did not say it should take place before; I said that it should happen at the same time. I say that peace will not take place between us and the Arab world before there is peace between us and the Arab countries, of course including the Arab Palestinian population here. These are two parts of the same problem. Syria is one of the Arab countries. I believe that Syria has an interest in having peaceful relations with us in the same way that we have an interest in having peaceful relations with it. It is very possible that the day will come when we can meet around the negotiating table.

[Ronen] Do you believe that the Gulf crisis brings this day nearer?

[Shamir] It is still too early to say.

[Halperin] Are you not worried by the reaction of the Palestinian population in the territories, and, to a certain extent, in Israel—by this almost total identification with Saddam? A very deep rift has been exposed here, enormous hostility. You are not in favor of separating us from the Palestinian people living with us. You are for coexistence.

[Shamir] I must say I was not surprised by this position of the Arab world on the whole, nor by its militant part in fighting against the State of Israel in Eretz Yisra'el. We remember that those elements who waged war on the State of Israel, when we only began dreaming about a state, are primarily Arabs. They have always waited for someone, for some external force, which would do their work for them and halt this Zionist monster. Once it was Hitler. We all remember the great admiration he won in the Arab world, including the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. There was a time when they admired communism and believed that communism would help them end the Zionist phenomenon. Today, all of a sudden, along comes Saddam Husayn. The minute they saw some possibility that this was the man who could beat Israel, defeat it, end it, they forgot their dialogues, their tactical moves, and 'Arafat's commitments to renounce terror. Once more the anti-Israeli Arab facet has been exposed. Nevertheless, although it causes worry, it is part of reality. I do not give up on the hope and the chance that a day will come when they will decide to accept our existence and our presence.

[Ronen] Could it be, Mr. Prime Minister, that their current reaction is a result of their despair over not reaching any agreement? Perhaps Saddam Husayn is a chance for them?

[Shamir] My dear friend, this is an eternal despair. I have just mentioned the time of Hitler, the time of 'Abd-al-Nasir, communism, socialism. Today's hero is Saddam Husayn. There will be somebody else tomorrow. There is no need to despair. Certainly we need not despair.

[Halperin] Mr. Shamir, before you set up your current government, which was not so long ago, you said you would rather set up a national unity government if you only could. You were forced to set up a narrow-based government. Today there is a national consensus concerning the Gulf crisis. Do you not think this is the right time to call on Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin and tell them: Together let us form a national unity government.

[Shamir] Look, I once said that I would never exclude the possibility of establishing a national unity government in Israel. The appropriate political conditions for that must exist, however. There must be a willingness, an agreement on all the issues, not just on what is happening now in the Persian Gulf. I hope this will not last long, but if there is a development that would require the establishment of a national unity government, and me and my friends are convinced that this is the case, we will not hesitate and do it.

[Halperin] What if Mr. Peres addresses you?

[Shamir] This is not a question of who is addressing whom. It is a question of needs, abilities, and appropriate conditions. At this time it is still irrelevant.

[Ronen] Sir, you said this is a time of emergency. Maybe that is why you should initiate at least joint consultations with the heads of the Labor Party, as you did during the Lebanon war?

[Shamir] Look, I have asked the defense minister to invite Knesset Member Rabin and update him, share all the information we have with him, and perhaps get some advice from him, since he is a former defense minister and a person who is very familiar with Israel's defense and military issues. The defense minister did that. I felt the need to do that. Politically the need is still not very urgent.

[Ronen] Rabin, not Peres.

[Shamir] I am not getting involved in this issue. This is none of my business.

[Ronen] Thank you, Sir. I wish to thank 'Imanu'el Halperin, and the viewers. Good night.

Italian Weekly Interviews Shamir on Iraqi Threat

AU2208120290 Rome ANSA in English 1043 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] (ANSA)—Rome, August 22—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Italian weekly EPOCA (which has released excerpts in advance of publication) that "Israel risks becoming a strategic objective for the Iraqi president over the next few weeks.

"The world has still not realized the danger that Saddam Husayn poses for us all. We are dealing with a man, a dictator who has come out the winner, even though economically exhausted, from the long conflict with Iran. He has a big, powerful army and he repressed the Kurds with methods that are common knowledge—poison gas—which he also used against the Iranians. Now this man wants to push out further still.

"The United States, the Soviet Union and the United Nations have all got together to stop him, but he won't stop and the damage risks being heavy and long lasting," said Shamir.

Levy Warns Against Weakness on Iraqi Invasion

PM2208151090 Madrid ABC in Spanish 19 Aug 90 p 27

[Miguel Castellvi dispatch: "Neither Embargo Nor Naval Blockade Will Succeed in Stopping Saddam Husayn"]

[Excerpt] Rome—Before leaving Rome, where he met with [Italian Foreign Minister] Gianni De Michelis, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy talked about the Gulf crisis. His analysis allows no facile optimism about the possibility of a political solution. Levy is convinced that in the current stalemate, time is working in Saddam Husayn's favor, unless the anti-Iraqi coalition sets a deadline for Baghdad to leave Kuwait.

It is doubtful whether the embargo and the naval blockade will be sufficient to make the dictator of Baghdad give in: "We are not dealing with a rational man," Levy warned. "The West likes to deceive itself, and refused to believe Saddam. We have believed him since he did to the Kurds what he threatened to do (use gas to destroy whole towns)." "Since Europe continued to help him, Saddam became convinced that he had enormous power and that the world would not act against him," he added.

"If he still does not meet with an appropriate response, he is capable of endangering all the energy sources on the Arabian peninsula. If the free world does not take this seriously and matters continue like this for long, everything could change, and the leaders of the Arab countries which have now aligned themselves with the free world will even be afraid of being accused of collaboration with the 'imperialists.' There will be governments in danger, and they will have to be given colossal financial aid to ensure that they stay loyal to the coalition against Iraq. The price will be very high and victory very distant," he continued.

Will the embargo, the naval blockade, not be sufficient to make Husayn give in? David Levy replied: "I am very much afraid that it will not be sufficient. There is a great deal of difference between a totalitarian regime and the democracies. If matters continue like this for months, people will want to bring 'our boys' home. Bush, who is very popular now, will eventually be highly criticized. I do not even believe in a watertight blockade for many months: Cracks will develop in the barrier."

"Irrationality"

"What has been done—the coordination between East and West, between the United States, Europe, Japan, and part of the Arab world—is very important. So is the naval blockade. But we are not dealing with a rational man. Saddam can threaten, make proposals, and hold out for a long time, and there is a danger that we will become accustomed to the fait accompli. If matters proceed like that, the masses in the Arab world will view Saddam as the winner, the Arabs' leader, the new Al-Nasir of the Euphrates, and the forces deployed against him will be viewed as a new crusade."

"The West," David Levy continued, "must set a date, a deadline—it does not matter which, October or November—for the Iraqis' withdrawal from Kuwait. And if nothing happens, it will be necessary to act." How? "It is not for Israel to give advice. Nobody loves war, but those who dream of peace must be prepared for war. Otherwise, what is the use of this great force which has been sent to the Middle East? It is necessary not to act like the United States in Lebanon: In order to be able to defend yourself, you must be able to counterattack. This is the message which must be sent to Saddam Husayn."

"If the West does not react to an invasion like this, it will show weakness, and in the Middle East weakness whets the dictators' appetites, while wisdom is interpreted as weakness. To confine yourself to waiting for 'something to happen in Iraq' means to condemn yourself to paralysis. If the world is weak, why could not other Saddam Husayns emerge everywhere in the Middle East?"

On the Palestinian problem, Levy confirmed that Israel stands by its plan for democratic elections in the occupied territories. But is not perhaps the Palestinian issue—if nothing is done to tackle it—an important asset in Saddam Husayn's hands? David Levy replied: The Palestinian issue must not be confused with the Gulf crisis. It is not what explains the Saddam phenomenon. Saddam is self-explanatory. He attacked Kuwait, which was pro-Palestinian; he is attacking Syria and Egypt. What is at stake is the leadership of the Arab world against the West, and the challenge comes from a man who wishes to be able to determine the world economy's future.

"If They Threaten Us..."

Last, an opinion on Israel with respect to the crisis: Now that it has been made clear that a foreign force's entry into Jordan "would be tantamount to a declaration of war on Israel—and King Husayn knows it," there remains the threat of an Iraqi crusading attack [ataque cruzado] on Israel. "But we hope," Levy concluded, "that Iraq will not embark upon this venture. With Israel there is no question of naval blockades, and it knows it. We are not interested in war, but if they threaten us we will be able to counterattack, and fast. Because for us time is worth more than gold: Time is life. When you are in danger, you do not leave until tomorrow what must be done today: You do today what you deem it essential to do tomorrow. This is the rationale of Israel's defense, when we are facing a threat." [passage omitted]

Military Sources See 'War in 24-48 Hours'

AU2308111490 Rome ANSA in English 1015 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]—Tel Aviv—U.S. military intervention against Iraq is now possible shortly and may finish by involving Israel, Israeli military sources warned here Wednesday. Qualified sources told ANSA that the United States now seems to have "no way out of the crisis without military intervention against Iraq." The sources argued that Iraq may be led to involve Israel directly so as to turn the hostilities into an anti-Israeli war and split the pro-American Arab front. The sources also warned that despite superiority in arms and material, the Americans may face difficulties on the ground against Iraqi troops hardened in eight years of war against Iran. After a secret session of top Israeli military planners, one speculative estimate saw war in 24-48 hours.

'Intelligence Sources' Say Role in War Likely

TA2008073290 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The likelihood that a war between the United States and Iraq might ultimately drag Israel into active participation in it is high. This was reported by Army intelligence sources to the cabinet yesterday.

In their reviews, the defense minister, the chief of staff, the head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, and other senior officers reported that Iraq is indeed preparing for war and is continuing to ship military reinforcements to Kuwait. Iraq is simultaneously establishing its control over the occupied country and has divided Kuwait into three districts, which were incorporated into Baghdad's regional government system.

Jordan is currently the main and almost exclusive loophole in the economic blockade of Iraq, the cabinet was told. Although King Husayn is trying to "maneuver" between the United States and Iraq, in effect Amman is subordinate to Baghdad. The Jordanian Army has been put on alert, but the monarch is avoiding suppressing the mounting agitation in Islamic and Palestinian circles. The officials also reported that the United States currently regards Husayn as acting against U.S. interests.

The security elements added that they do not believe the Gulf crisis and Jordan's role in it are related to the border incident involving two Jordanian Army soldiers yesterday.

In his offers to Iran, Saddam Husayn in fact accepted all of Tehran's demands concerning the two countries' conflict. Jerusalem believes that even if Iran tries to fully exploit Saddam's proposals it will still not side with Iraq because its strategic goal is to renew its relations with the West.

The PLO supports Iraq, although some people in Iraq question the wisdom of this position. The cabinet was told that Yasir 'Arafat himself coordinates his organization's support for Saddam. There is broad support for Saddam in the territories for religious and nationalistic reasons, but the Palestinian leadership is beginning to realize the damage to the Palestinian cause because of that stance. Palestinian support for Iraq, the cabinet was told, has not brought violence in the territories in its wake.

Cabinet Analysis of Gulf Situation, Effects

TA2008102190

[Editorial report] Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 20 August carries a front-page report by its political correspondent in Jerusalem on the 19 August cabinet session. He reports: "The fear that the Persian Gulf events and the need for special budgets might cause the United States to cut its aid to Israel was expressed at the cabinet session yesterday." He adds: "It was reported that there have been precedents for such cuts, as when aid to Israel was slashed due to the need to raise funds in the United States to fight the drug problem."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT's political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, who also reports on the 19 August cabinet session on page 5 of the 20 August issue, says: "Political sources reported that Israel hopes the United States, in view of the crisis with Iraq, will help it in various ways, along the lines of the U.S. promise to assist other friendly countries in the region. The sources said that the U.S. presence in the region has increased the danger to Israel, and this situation requires the same degree of preparedness and necessary purchases as had been promised Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkey."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 20 August, in a front-page report by Joshua Brilliant, says that when the ministers were briefed about the infiltration attempt by two Jordanian Army soldiers yesterday, "a military source" reported "the soldiers were Moslem extremists, apparently on their way to an attack inside Israel.

"Yesterday's infiltration was the third since January 1, and a senior military source said it was therefore 'not exceptional.'

"The Jordanian authorities have been trying to prevent attacks on Israel, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources insisted, and have tried to keep Palestinians in their army away from the border. They have also instituted other measures to keep the border quiet.

"One military source, however, said that recent events in Jordan indicate that King Husayn's position is weakening and 'this may definitely affect the army's control over its troops.'"

Another report on the same page of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, by Dan Izenberg, adds that "an informed source" told the cabinet yesterday "the Jordanian ruler was looking for every flaw in the UN decision to apply economic sanctions against Iraq, in order to continue moving Saddam Husayn's supplies through the port of al-'Aqabah."

Minister To Request Increased U.S. Economic Aid

TA2308043390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Israel will ask the United States to increase its economic aid significantly. The finance minister will submit the request to the U.S. administration during his talks in Washington next month.

Addressing a United Jewish Appeal delegation, Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said that events in the Persian Gulf prove that Israel is a first-rate strategic asset for the United States, and consequently, the latter must see to the country's economic strength. He hinted that Israel is helping the United States more than meets the eye in the crisis.

Islamic Leader Calls for Iraqi, U.S. Withdrawals

TA2308075990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, objects to the solidarity of the Palestinians with Saddam Husayn and calls on the Iraqi leader to withdraw his army from Kuwait and restore its independence. Darwish says one can hardly object to Israel's rule over the territories on the one hand and justify the invasion of Kuwait on the other.

Interviewed by our correspondent, Darwish said he was planning a mass demonstration of Israeli Arabs that would underscore only one demand: the ouster of the U.S. Army from the Islamic holy sites in Saudi Arabia. Our correspondent Gil Sadan reports:

[Begin recording] [Sadan] After their initial enthusiasm with Saddam Husayn—70 percent support in a public opinion poll—different and more sober voices are being heard now among Israel's Arabs. [passage omitted]

[Darwish] This is a holy place, the holiest site for all Muslims. Therefore, there is no baby, woman, man, or youngster who justifies the U.S. invasion of the holy land. Even those who tell you that they support the U.S. invasion of Saudi Arabia are liars. It's as simple as that.

[Sadan] According to Darwish, all efforts should center on one objective: removing the Americans from Saudi Arabia.

[Darwish] No regime that supports the U.S. invasion of the holy land will remain in power. No president or king who gave his support will remain in power.

[Sadan] If the Palestinians have second thoughts about supporting Saddam, they do not necessarily stem from the cries of anguish of the Israeli left wing that its Palestinian interlocutors have, so to speak, turned their back on them.

[Darwish] My dear friend, I call on the Israeli left wing not to panic or think that they have lost their partner. They have not lost their Palestinian partner. Their partner still exists, remains loyal to its way, to coexistence, and to building the bridge that we must tread together.

[Sadan] If only the Arabs were allowed to deal with Saddam Husayn, Shaykh Darwish sighs, the Iraqi Army would already be on its way back home.

[Darwish] I do not think the Americans gave the Arab and Islamic world the opportunity to rebel against Saddam's invasion of Kuwait. They really and truly handed him a present at the right time; Saddam had been looking for this present, for U.S. intervention. Now, instead of rebelling against Saddam, the entire Arab world is rebelling against the U.S. intervention. [end recording]

Oil Purchases From Mexico To Increase

TA2308110490 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Aug 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by Tali Barzilay Zonenfeld]

[Excerpts] Israel is increasing its oil purchases from Mexico by 0.5 million metric tons a year. A few days ago Israel signed a contract with Mexico whereby Israel will increase its annual oil purchases from 1 to 1.5 million metric tons. [passage omitted]

In the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis, annual expenditures on oil will total $1.75 billion, compared to the planned $1 billion. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Gives News Conference on Crisis

JN2208182490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Aug 90

["Full Recording" of King Husayn's news conference at the Royal Court in Amman on 22 August]

[Text] [Husayn] Good evening; ladies and gentlemen and friends; once again I am pleased to have this opportunity to meet you, to welcome you to Jordan during this difficult time that the world as a whole faces and certainly this entire region. I am happy to be able to have this meeting with you. I apologize that I haven't had the chance during the last several days since I last met representatives of the press and the world media. I am afraid I'm unable to as yet arrange for personal interviews, but I will try to cover as much ground with you collectively as I can.

I believe that we are almost facing the kind of crisis of the world gone mad. I hope that our efforts and the efforts of others throughout the world will enable us to achieve the objectives of A, bringing about a halt to the escalation of the crisis, and B, beginning a process of de-escalation. And certainly in all events, to do our utmost to avert the kind of explosion that could easily occur by calculation or miscalculation that could have a devastating effect on this region and the world in terms of what this region represents as a point of interest to all who live in our universe.

This was the purpose of my visit to the United States and my meeting with President Bush, who responded quickly to my suggestion for such a meeting to take place between two old friends: one, a man who holds a tremendous responsibility in the world of today as the leader of the United States; and the second, a person who has lived his life in this area, assuming responsibilities, and identifying always and ever with the hopes and aspirations of the Arab people.

I believe it was a very constructive meeting at least to have a chance to discuss face to face this particular crisis and to get to know each other's views and positions. I did not go carrying any message from any in the area, but I came back with a degree of comfort over what I felt was also a genuine desire to halt the rapid uncontrolled escalation of the situation in this area.

We will continue our efforts that had been stopped every time ever since the crisis broke out on the Arab level, and with those of our brethren who are able to cooperate with us and who may have succeeded in not removing themselves or their potential from the equation by taking emotional or premature stands. We hope, still, that we can move toward defusing the situation and finding, or contributing to the finding, of a solution that is satisfactory to all, and for it to be the Arab contribution in fulfillment of Arab responsibility of leaders to resolve the problem within our Arab family.

I'll begin to move within the next 24 hours, and I will continue to do so over the coming period, barring the unexpected. As far as Jordan is concerned, I'd like to say that contrary to the idea that might be floating about here or there in this world, Jordan has never been more united; Jordan has never been more clear in the thinking and feelings of its people and leadership alike. Obviously, different people in different positions and areas, they express themselves differently to one another, but we believe that this is a moment in time where we are together, and in an atmosphere of democracy and freedom that we've experienced in the recent past and of which we are very, very proud. We share together the concern for our future in this entire area with our brethren and Arabs in the larger Arab homeland for securing our rights and the rights of generations to come to live with dignity, freedom, to live in peace and security with others in this world.

On the human level, we have some problems of a serious dimension, and in particular—and let me be clear here—I refer to the fact that we have received within Jordan since the beginning of this crisis an approximate number of 185,000 people of different nationalities; 67,000 have left, and we are finding enormous difficulty in meeting the needs of these people or in arranging adequate modes of transport for them to leave Jordan to their respective destinations. This problem is particularly serious as regards our Egyptian brothers. Today, alone, we had 42,000 appear on our borders with Iraq. We've had until now two adults dead and four children since the beginning of this human movement through Jordan. We're doing all we can, but we may have to slow down the process of receiving more people unless we are able to speed up the movement of people from Jordan to their respective destinations, and we are trying our very best to provide food and shelter in particular, now medical facilities, at all points in this country.

I am in touch with my Arab brethren, and I am in touch with the leaders throughout the world and will continue to do our utmost to contribute toward a solution of the entire crisis to the best of our ability. I'll leave it to you now to ask any questions, and I'll be more than happy to answer.

[Reporter] [Words indistincts] Saddam Husayn and what his frame of mind was? Have you spoken with him?

[Husayn] I have not talked to President Saddam Husayn personally, sir, since I last was in Iraq, the day before I departed to the United States. I haven't had a chance to have a direct contact with President Saddam Husayn. This may come in the next few days if I'm able to carry out my program, which was to visit a number of Arab states and to talk with their leaders beginning tomorrow—and then we'll see where we go from there.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, the last time you spoke [words inditinct] President Bush, the last time you spoke with him, what was his attitude?

[Husayn] His attitude was as it has always been, the attitude of the leader of an Arab state facing a tremendous challenge and a threat to its very existence, and here may

I explain, if I may, what were the elements in my view now looking back at it that contributed to the situation we all find ourselves in. I believe that ever since the hostilities ceased between Iraq and Iran, after eight terrible years with many, many losses on both sides, Iraq—its government and leadership—began to come under a concerted effort throughout the world to picture it in a manner that probably reflected to a degree the fears and suspicions of something new emerging in the Arab world. The Arab-Israeli problem is still unresolved, and certainly it is unresolved because a just, honorable solution has not yet been possible to achieve regarding that particular tragedy, and the Zionist movement has a tremendous infuence in this world—certainly as far as the media is concerned in different parts of the world and possibly even as far as decisionmakers in different parts of the world as well. Certainly they have the ability and the means, and it seems to me as if it has for a number of months focused on Iraq and contributed towards creating suspicions of Iraq and changing its image drastically in the minds of many in the world in which we live. Secondly, there is a new element. We are living in a new world. The question is not one of two major powers confronting each other, but one that has brought so many changes. We all welcomed this and hoped it would affect us as well in this area in a positive way.

Now I believe the area is far more important than ever before in terms of the energy resources available within it which may exceed even our expectations or what we thought might be available within it. And so with the changes occurring, there seems to be interest in either controlling these sources of energy because whatever influence can be brought to bear on this area regarding the sources of energy can have a profound effect on how the world of tomorrow is shaped. Of course there are the military industries and military establishments in the world that I feel again have probably passed through a period of concern regarding the future. The needs of yesterday may not be the needs of today. This is another element in the equation. And of course more recently, probably the influence of the first two on some in the area who saw dangers, and that in my view and opinion did not exist or did not justify their going along with this buildup of a physical nature and a psychological nature that puts us almost on the brink of an eruption in this area which is very, very difficult to limit in terms of our imagination should it ever occur.

I've been pleading for sanity. I've been pleading for people to see what is at stake. I've been pleading on the Arab side for a chance for us to resolve our problems within the Arab world. And what I am attempting to do now is to really ask people to think, even decisionmakers at the very highest levels in this world and in the area, to analyze very carefully what they receive and to look at what is presented to them as evidence or assumptions regarding the attitudes of others, to try to look at the motives and the reasons and to buy some time—time that is vital to turn this process in the direction that it should have taken in the first place and to diminish the risks of a disaster.

So his attitude was as it has always been. I do not believe that he was ever impulsive or....[changes thought] I knew this problem was coming and I could see that it was coming. He spoke about it at the Arab summit in Baghdad. He tried after that to resolve it in different ways, and on my last visit to both Iraq and Kuwait I saw the ominous signs of either a hope that the meeting in Jeddah might have produced something, or, if it didn't, I didn't know where things would go. But I certainly felt that the situation was serious enough to the point where I came back and tried to warn of the gravity of the situation as I did in Kuwait, in fact. But, unfortunately, things went out of hand. This tragic situation holds a lot of potential for any novelist who cares to write about it in the future. It is thrilling; it is depressing; it is frightening. Thank you very much, indeed.

[Reporter] You spoke about an eruption of violence. How close do you believe we are to war in this region?

[Husayn] I hope we are not, sir. I pray we are not. I believe that as I far as I can tell Iraq is holding a purely defensive posture where it stands at the moment. I have a feeling and an impression that the other forces arrayed against Iraq in the area claim to also be holding a defensive posture. If this is the case, then, God willing, we will pass through this phase. But on the other hand, the possibility of miscalculation or further escalation on any level could bring us to a rather serious situation.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the foreign minister referred to Saudi Arabia as evil and corrupt. Today it was reported that Jordan is planning to buy oil from Saudi Arabia. Does that mean that your country is now siding with the West in this crisis?

[Husayn] My country is not siding with anyone but itself, with the Arab people and their hopes and aspirations, and with sanity to prevail in this area and the solutions to be found within it, if at all possible. I believe this is a possibility, and I have been pleading for a chance for us to get on with it and to do so without external pressures and interference. So we will continue to try to do that and achieve it, I hope.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] harm your relations with Iraq, your close ally, by purchasing oil from Saudi Arabia?

[Husayn] I honestly don't know what the details are in that regard, but as far as Jordan is concerned, and as far as I am concerned, let me make one thing absolutely clear: Ever since the beginning of this crisis, there have been attempts at intimidation, there have been threats, there have warnings, there have angry words. There have been attempts to suggest that our problems could be resolved through assistance and help. Jordan is in a very, very difficult position at this point in time. But on the other hand, Jordan is more united than it ever was. And as far as I am concerned, I made it clear here and there; in Washington, at the Arab summit, within the country itself, elsewhere, that I have not and will never be a burden to my country, but under no circumstances will I compromise my principles or my beliefs. I will continue to serve these people to whom I belong with pride, and continue to say what I feel is right and just, regardless of who this pleases and who it does not please, right through to the end. I always attempt to live with my conscience and fear of God only. And the other problems are being dealt with by the government and other officials in Jordan. But the last of my concerns is truly the domestic needs of this country, as serious as they are. I am trying to avert a bigger disaster that would overtake the entire area and maybe the world.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Baghdad and then Washington [words indistinct] You have talked to the major players in this conflict. Do you feel now, based upon your talks in private that both President Bush and President Saddam are determined to resolve their differences on the battlefield rather than the bargaining table, at the negotiating table?

[Husayn] I hope that the negotiating arena would be the one choice that all will move towards. And to begin with, I believe there is an Arab dimension to the problem, and we are trying to address that as best as we can. And there is obviously one of concern regarding the world. And hopefully this also will be an area of the concentration of our efforts and the efforts of those concerned. At a certain moment, I was rather concerned that I sensed as if there was desire in this world, strange and odd as it seemed and frightening as it seemed, for some bloodletting in this area. There certainly was the spirit and the mobilization of emotions and feelings without thought as to what this would mean and what the results could be. We have tried to stand in the face of this mood and way of thought and thoughtless approach, rather, dangerous approach, to the best of our ability from the start, and we will continue to do so, sir.

[Reporter] Would you [words indistinct] more confident of the future, more optimistic than you did last night or the night before?

[Husayn] I always live with hope, and I am always optimistic, and we will try our best to....

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct] time that your country is becoming, or has become, the weak link in the UN embargo. You mentioned that your country is serving as a gate for refugees. You've also served as a gate for goods to still flow into Iraq. Is this going to stop? What kind of parameters you adhere to....

[Husayn, interrupting] In this particular situation, sir, first of all, I would like to reemphasize our position that we have declared time and again that for 23 years we have been awaiting the upholding in this area of the elements of the United Nations Charter that speak of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war. Many territories are occupied in this area, and had been. We have stood by that principle on other issues, and areas far away from the Middle East and from Jordan. So, this is a principle we adhere to. On the other hand, regarding Security Council resolutions, we have always accepted them, and in this particular area the situation, as we see it, is one where some in this world have moved ahead of the resolutions adopted, and also there is an area of ambiguity that we are trying to clarify, and have been with the United Nations, as to what does an embargo mean, what is permitted to flow and what is not permitted to flow, and hopefully this will be clarified. But any actions we have taken have been received with the understanding also of the brethren in Iraq, which made it easier for us morally and so forth. So, officially and factually, Jordan adheres to the resolution and is implementing it within its understanding of its meaning, and as it continues to try to clarify the vague areas that still exist.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] interpretation, what is permitted to flow?

[Husayn] I don't know really.

[Reporter] (?Is that true?)

[Husayn] For example, medicines, foodstuffs. I really.... [changes thought] The details are not clear, and I don't think they are clear to any in both, and people are interpreting them, in other words these resolutions, depending on where they stand and what it means. [sentence as heard] But the connections between Jordan and Iraq are very fundamental and very extensive. And, at the same time, we recognize our international obligation, and have always done so.

[Reporter] When do you think that Jordan will begin to apply sanctions fully?

[Husayn] What is fully, sir? That is precisely the question.

[Reporter] Well, when you would stop, for example, all the traffic going across on the road border to Iraq? The lorries, the....

[Husayn, interrupting] You can suggest maybe that we should stop the traffic completely and close the border. And there are thousands of people streaming in all the time, and we're having to slow this down now.

[Reporter] You were talking about the danger of war, could I return to that? Could I ask you: Do you think that President Saddam would fire the first shot?

[Husayn] I don't think he would. But, on the other hand, I would like to point to the fact that at the Arab summit he said very clearly that he thought that attempts were being made to bring Iraq down to its knees and could not meet its basic requirements or its people's. It could not pay for its war debts; it would not service these debts. So it was facing almost the state of strangulation. This was really the bases for and root cause of this tragedy that we are facing right now.

On the other hand, this reality is being faced by Iraq in a different way. I believe basically that Iraq did not wish to move beyond Kuwait. If it had wished to move beyond Kuwait, it would have done so before the start of the buildup. I don't share the belief of many in this world that there were any concentrations on the Saudi border. I believe possibly that the Saudi leadership was misinformed, and others may have been.

And now we are facing a crisis regardless of all this. Iraq has no intention of starting hostilities. And if others are not, then maybe we have the chance for the beginning of a de-escalation, and hopefully a solution to this problem.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] and did you ever believe that an Arab force could have done this? And what would it take, short of a military strike, to get the Iraqis to leave?

[Husayn] I believe that since the first day we had that chance within the Arab world. We had it when Iraq committed itself to the beginning of a withdrawal. Had there not been escalation and a growing menace and threat, had we in the Arab world not reacted—in the case of some—the way we had, maybe things would have been different to what they are today. I still believe that we have a duty within the Arab context to resolve this problem, and I am working to fulfill this duty with those of my colleagues that are able to contribute towards it.

And as to how and where and when, if the situation is calmed down to a degree, I think we could be on our way towards resolving this problem in a manner that is satisfactory.

[Reporter] So yesterday Mr. Tariq 'Aziz came over, and he did a press conference in which many of us noticed that there was some different tone at least. On the other hand, the Italian Government, as many of the governments in Europe, have received apparently an offer by President Saddam Husayn to let go their civilians. And on the other hand, we have also Iraqi visiting in this moment Moscow. [as heard] My question is: Is this a sign of maybe Iraq trying to reassess its own way of dealing with the crisis? And this is a sort of opinion of some experts in Amman. You know there are signs that maybe Iraq is trying to shift in tactics in the way it is dealing with this crisis. You have any knowledge of it?

[Husayn] I don't have any definite knowledge of any change or alteration, but I believe that beyond the first day in this action there was a chance, and I would like to say that there is still a chance to resolve this problem in a satisfactory manner.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, when you see President Saddam Husayn, would you suggest to him perhaps by allowing foreign civilians who want to leave Iraq to leave Iraq, that he might help defuse the situation? And what do you think his response might be?

[Husayn] Contrary to the impressions of many, I hope that only by logic and common sense and genuine concern can I influence anyone to adopt any position that he might be convinced is right. I am not a part of the decisionmaking of any, and no one is in this area part of my own decisionmaking. I try to look at all the different elements, and I try to come up with the best answers. And this has been my way. I have said from the beginning that threats of the use of force, intimidation, condemnation does not get us anywhere. And I still believe this to be the case. But, on the other hand, a constructive dialogue and objective and fluid diplomacy at this time until we find exactly where we are and how we move could be done. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] Why are you going now to buy oil by the Saudis? Do you think that your previous source would be blocked?

[Husayn] I beg your pardon?

[Reporter] Your previous source from Iraq would be blocked? I mean the oil....

[Husayn, interrupting] Some of you here are suggesting we close the borders, so how are we going to get our oil?

[Reporter] So, you think that you will not get oil from Iraq?

[Husayn] No, I think we will continue to get oil from Iraq. But, in any event, if you want to go back to a period before this particular time, we were getting Iraqi oil and we were getting Saudi oil, and we were hoping that the Iraqi pipeline going to the Red Sea would also be linked to the pipeline coming from Saudi Arabia to save us the need to transport oil by road, which was becoming almost impossible. So, these are technicalities. I am not aware of recent developments, and I am not in a position really to give you any details as to ....[changes thought] But certainly I think Jordan would try to seek, to get some oil to meet its needs. How and from where, I really don't know. And you may be ahead of me in terms of the details you have.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, the Iraqis have attempted to justify the occupation of Kuwait beginning with Kuwait and talking about all of the other Gulf countries' leaders as being illegitimate in some way, as being shaykhs of oil and other pejorative terms they have used for it. Do you have any sympathy with that point of view by your ally Iraq?

[Husayn] I have been involved with the Gulf and the Gulf states for many, many years to serve my country. We have our own belief and our own approach, and we have very close relations with all of them, if not with many of them. Whatever happens beyond this point in time, I hope that it will serve as a chance in the Arab world, for all of us, to reassess. One of the areas that I've been talking about for the last years, and more so in the last month, was trying to persuade everyone concerned to make a genuine effort to resolve these border problems inherited from a time that [words indistinct] the masters of our own destinies. They seem to be solvable and to remove the feelings of mistrust as a result, to trust and confidence among each other and to look certainly at the area of the haves and have nots in the area and the need to bridge the gap. I hope in the future that all these problems will be addressed, not in anger, but with reason and logic and the commitment to the future of the area.

[Reporter] What is your position to find some diplomatic solution? Could you identify the countries or the leaders you are going to contact in this regard and whether they are only on the Arab level or internationally?

[Husayn] Well, we are in touch with the leaders throughout the world, but certainly on the Arab level. That will be my intention, and I don't want to give you my plans of travel at this moment. They are not finally worked out.

[Reporter] What is your position on the Iraqi policy of holding some 10,000 or more Westerners against their will?

[Husayn] That is the Iraqi policy and position as you know it to be, and I hope that in any event the conditions would improve that these people can return to their countries.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] your friendship with Saddam Husayn to make a humanitarian effort, a gesture in some kind of negotiations for the plight of those people, who whether they are called guests or hostages are people who cannot leave Iraq or Kuwait?

[Husayn] I can only respond to this particular question, and tell you that we have a long record, and this record indicates where we stand regarding the freedom of people, the freedom of movement, and these are extraordinary circumstances that we are facing now. And we are trying our very best to find solutions to all these problems and one of them is certainly this problem to which you referred.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you spoke before [words indistinct] since the beginning of the crisis and throughout the region is that this is a problem within the Arab family for the Arab family to solve. And yet, as you sit here, your efforts have been tripped up at several points by parties that include some of the Arab nations. At a time when it seems the Arab world is so polarized, perhaps more than in many, many years, can the rest of the world have confidence in a process that would take place only within the Arab family?

[Husayn] Well, this is our future. The present and the future is at stake. And I feel very, very strongly that Arab solutions to Arab problems are possible. And if I didn't believe that, I wouldn't be wasting my time. And every moment of my time in point of fact has been devoted to halting the escalation of this crisis and beginning to defuse it. And I believe very much indeed that there is an Arab role to be played. Jordan has tried, but with the help of others, hopefully we will continue and we will succeed while you are in touch with the realities of this world and the rest of the world.

I would like to thank you, very, very much indeed for your time and your patience and to say how happy I am to have had this chance to be with you. And if time permits, if conditions improve, I will see as many of my old friends as I can on an individual basis. Otherwise, hopefully we will meet again. In the meantime, we salute you, and we hope that you will implore those who hear you to think, to examine the facts continuously. And I don't know, some popular word was "give peace a chance." Maybe that should be repeated now and maybe it would be apt. [applause] Thank you very much.

Leaves for Sanaa 23 Aug

JN2308102690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman this morning for Sanaa on a working visit to the Republic of Yemen to hold talks with his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih within the framework of his majesty's contacts and consultations with his brothers the Arab leaders to reach an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

Saudi Embassy Denies Presence of Israeli Troops

JN2208120090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The Saudi Arabian Embassy in Amman sent a memorandum to the Jordanian Foreign Ministry denying reports circulated by news agencies and published by newspapers and various media in Jordan citing these news agencies, which claim that Israeli soldiers and planes camouflaged with U.S. signs are among foreign forces on Saudi territory.

In the memorandum, the embassy denied this report completely. It said that there is no truth in it whatsoever.

Help Expected in Egyptian Refugees' Return

TA2108162190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Israel hopes Jordan will allow the Egyptian nationals who fled Iraq and Kuwait to return to their country by crossing from al-'Aqabah via Elat. Our political correspondent points out that Israel responded positively to the question of whether it would, in principle, allow the Egyptian refugees to traverse its territory, and is now expecting Jordan to lend its hand to this humanitarian project.

'Stampede and Disorder' Reported at Border Post

JN2208151190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Al-Ruwayshid border post on the Iraqi-Jordanian border has witnessed an unusual exodus of Arab and foreign nationals from Kuwait and Iraq. Security men were compelled to intervene to organize the flow of arrivals at this border post, which is working around the clock at full capacity. Cases of stampede and disorder were reported.

An official source told our radio that 2,381 persons crossed the border within two hours in the morning and that this number began to increase. Arrivals later numbered in the thousands. The source said that, despite the problem of absorbing this huge number of arrivals, Jordan does not deny entry to anyone for humanitarian reasons.

Following a week-long wait, Egypt agreed today to start flights from al-'Aqabah to Cairo to transport its nationals who currently number more than 40,000 people. These constitute the heaviest burden.

In another development, Musa Abu-Humayd, secretary general of the professional unions, has said that the unions' complex accommodated 1,200 Arabs who arrived here on their way home. The Jordanians offered money, food, and lodging to help thousands of people suffering from financial problems to return home.

Official on Closure of Border With Iraq

JN2208210090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has stated the following: Since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, the Jordanian Government has made maximum efforts to receive people of all nationalities who arrived from Iraq and Kuwait by offering all possible facilities, setting up emergency positions for their temporary residence, providing them with food within its means, and facilitating their transportation to points of departure for their countries.

The government coordinated its measures with the governments concerned through their diplomatic missions in Jordan in order to provide the sea and air transportation means that would guarantee the quick travel of their citizens so that the remaining numbers in Jordan would be within the government's ability to deal with them amid poor desert weather conditions and the tough psychological circumstances experienced by the arrivals. The cooperation of most sisterly and friendly governments was good in this regard, but the number of people arriving in the kingdom began to greatly increase and exceeded 100,000 today. Some governments' cooperation was not at the required level, so the problem was aggravated to such an extent that dealing with it became difficult for the competent Jordanian authorities.

In order to maintain the health of arrivals and guarantee appropriate conditions for them during their residence in Jordan and until positions are equipped with appropriate facilities in cooperation with any quarter wishing to help in this regard, the Jordanian Government finds itself compelled to close its borders for people arriving from Iraq as of 2400 [2100 GMT] today, Wednesday, 22 August 1990, and until the large number of arrivals now in Jordan have departed. This decision is made because Jordan wants to play its humanitarian role, which it never hesitated to play for even a moment during any of the crises to which the region has been exposed, and because it wants to do so at a suitable level that safeguards the dignity of human beings by supplying them with at least their minimally acceptable needs.

UN Consulted With on Crisis Repercussions

JN2208205990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Jordan today handed the chairman of the Security Council an official memorandum dealing with the repercussions that will affect Jordan as a result of Security Council Resolution 661.

'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent UN representative, is conducting intensive contacts with the Council's members in order to explain Jordan's viewpoint and the repercussions of the resolution for the country. The Jordanian memorandum was distributed by the Council's chairman to all members.

It is noteworthy that Jordan's consultations and discussions with the Security Council are in accordance with Article 50 of the UN Charter, which states the following: If the Security Council adopts against any state arrangements of prevention or suppression, then every other state, whether a UN or non-UN member, and which faces special economic problems resulting from implementing these arrangements, has the right to consult with the Security Council in order to settle these problems. Since Resolution 661 entails economic problems for Jordon, the country has resorted to the Security Council, in accordance with this Article, in order to consult with it and to explain all the economic problems it is suffering.

Al-'Aqabah Port Feeling Effects of Sanctions

JN2208094090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 90 p 5

[Report by Mariam Shahin]

[Text] Al-'Aqabah—Business is not as usual in this port city of 30,000 people which serves as Jordan's only outlet to the sea. As shipping agents and dock workers alike wait for expected cargo ships which are now much slower to arrive, officials worry over the prospect of a continual decline in the port's activity in view of the continuing pressure by the United Nations to impose economic sanctions on Iraq.

While the number of cargo ships arriving here has declined to half the normal, the tonnage in the cargo ships that do arrive has plunged by more than half and Jordanian exports, such as potash, phosphate and fertilisers, have slowed down simply because not enough ships are arriving at the port to carry the cargo, according to port officials.

Besides a slowdown in business, officials fear that "if the situation continues it may mean a layoff for up to 80 per cent of those employed in the shipping and transport industry, which is about 15,000 people."

The current slowdown of import/export activity and the cancellation of tour groups for the next few months have dashed the government's hopes for lowering Jordan's unemployment rate by increasing job availability in the port city.

The government had expressed hope last year that an expected increase in the import/export sector as well as the tourism industry would make jobs available for the country's unemployed, which official figures put at 16 per cent of the total workforce.

Officials, employers and workers alike are angry and worried over the continuation of the "de facto" embargo on cargo ships carrying Iraqi bound goods.

Officials say that all of the ships bound for Iraq have been held up in other ports in the region either by their owners or "someone else."

"Almost all the cargo ships with Iraqi-bound goods that have been prevented from unloading in al-'Aqabah have carried foodstuffs such a sugar, corn and rice," said 'Isam Qa'war, an executive of Amin Qa'war and Sons.

"As I understand it, humanitarian goods are supposed to pass through; so we are rather puzzled about what's going on," he added.

Other shipping officials were more blunt. "They seriously want to starve the Iraqis into submission," said one shipping agent referring to the U.S. in particular and members of the U.N. Security Council in general.

Officials hoped that the Security Council members would come to a decision to allow cargo ships carrying foodstuffs and medicine to dock at al-'Aqabah.

One sailor arriving from a journey at sea reported that American and other unidentified ships checked all the incoming cargo ships headed for al-'Aqabah at the Strait of Tiran "to send back those who have goods headed for Iraq."

Aw'ad al-Tal, the al-'Aqabah Ports Corporation director general, said that two ships, one Japanese and one Chinese, arrived at al-'Aqabah Tuesday. The first ship carried Japanese cars, while the other arrived to carry Jordanian potash to one of its many export destinations, al-Tal said.

European Hostage To Be Freed in 'Next Few Hours'

LD2308073190 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 23, IRNA—A European hostage held in Lebanon will be freed within the next few hours, an informed source told IRNA here Thursday [23 aug] morning.

According to the source the hostage in question is most likely Brian Keenan. Keenan who is an Irish national has been held since April 1986. There were reports last July on imminent release of Keenan, however, the source declined to comment on the reason for the delay.

Embassy in Kuwait Closed; Envoy To Beirut

NC2308052390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Lebanon has closed its embassy in Kuwait. Ambassador 'Adnan Badra and the embassy staff will leave for Beirut today in response to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry summons.

Army Companies Reportedly To Go to Saudi Arabia

NC2108090790 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 20 Aug 90 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Two Lebanese Comapanies to Saudi Arabia"]

[Text] Lebanon has decided to send two companies from the Lebanese Army to join the Arab forces sent to defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Approximately 150 officers and soldiers make up the two companies.

A minister who has been very enthusiastic about sending Lebanese soldiers to Saudi Arabia has suggested dispatching a brigade but without weapons and equipment so that after finishing its task in the Kingdom it will return fully armed and equipped.

Junblatt Returns From Iran; Statement Issued

NC2108140590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt has returned to Lebanon following a visit to Tehran during which he met with senior Iranian officials.

The PSP foreign relations department has issued the following statement:

PSP leader Walid Junblatt, accompanied by his deputy for foreign affairs Attorney Durayd Yaghi, paid an official invitation to the Islamic Republic of Iran between 14 and 20 August. The PSP delegation held meetings and talks with senior Iranian officials on important developments in the world in general and the Middle East and Gulf regions in particular. These officials included President Hojjat-el-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Roads and Transport Minister Dr. Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia, in addition to a number of others. These meetings and talks were extremely important at this critical time at the local and regional levels, particularly in view of the Zionist ambitions and the dangers resulting from the U.S. military intervention in the Gulf. Agreement was reached to continue consultations and talks and to develop bilateral relations.

A responsible source in the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon has said that the visit achieved very positive results. He added that officials in the Islamic Republic accorded Junblatt a very cordial welcome. Junblatt met once with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and twice each with Foreign Minister Dr. Velyati and Roads and Transport Minister Dr. Sa'idi-Kia. He also met with [Deputy Foreign Minister] Besharati and with the head of the Iranian Red Crescent and al-Mustad'afin Societies. The two sides discussed the situation in the Gulf, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the U.S. occupation of Islamic countries. All aspects of the Lebanese issue were also discussed. Iranian officials, headed by Rafsanjani, stressed the need to stop the bloodshed between the Amal Movement and Hizballah and to aim their rifles at the common Zionist enemy. Rafsanjani noted that the war is causing heavy losses for the Islamic and nationalist forces in Lebanon. Dr. Velayati stressed the need to strengthen Lebanese-Iranian relations in all fields and expressed the Islamic Republic's readiness to help resolve the Lebanese crisis and to strengthen its relations with and support for the Islamic and nationalist forces.

ICRC Withdraws 16 Employees From Lebanon

NC2208113390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Beirut told REUTER today that the ICRC has reduced the number of its foreign employees and its activities in Lebanon to reevaluate the security situation, particularly after the recent kidnapping of the two Swiss Red Cross employees. This decision was made after they were released. He added that 16 people—half of the foreign employees—have recently been withdrawn from Lebanon. The representative denied that the Red Cross paid a ransom for the release of the two Swiss employees.

'Awn Radio Reviews Constitutional Amendments

NC2208142790 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpts] What kind of new Lebanon is it that can be established by 48 persons who overlooked all principles and shunned their responsibility to the homeland, the people, and themselves? They submitted in all humility to the conspiracy, agreeing to be mere numbers or an excuse which foreign powers use at the expense of

Lebanon's people, land, future, and sovereignty. They met yesterday in al-Najmah Square, and in less than 10 hours they approved what they called constitutional amendments, which are in reality a violation of the Constitution. Here we would like to point out the following facts:

1. The Chamber of Deputies had been dissolved by the legitimate authority on 4 November 1989. Hence, it has no parliamentary authority.

2. The session during which the so-called amendments were approved yesterday was held in the presence of two-thirds of the living former deputies. The Constitution stipulates that two thirds of the deputies, which should be 66 deputies, must attend the session. Accordingly, the former deputies have violated Article 79 of the Constitution.

3. When they were elected 18 years ago, the former 48 deputies formed less than half the Chamber. They were elected by the people for four years only. The Chamber then renewed itself in view of events. [passage omitted]

4. The sectarian balance which had been an established rule in the Chambers of Deputies is no longer maintained, because the death [of certain deputies] disturbed that balance. There is only one living Druze former deputy, and 19 living Maronite former deputies.

5. There is a conflict between the articles of the al-Ta‘if agreement which were approved by the former deputies yesterday. It is not acceptable to impose certain deputies on the people who should be the source of all authority.

6. The method pursued in securing the false quorum to pass the amendments stealthily was, in itself, a clear evidence that the former deputies took the national will lightly and despised the people. Certain former deputies, who live thousands of miles from their country, came to Lebanon to add to the number of deputies. After voting, they left for their residences abroad without contacting the people whom they claim to represent. [passage omitted]

7. Through their attempt to pass the amendments stealthily and impose them on the people, the former deputies refuted their own claims that the al-Ta‘if agreement was open for amendment from within. The dissolved Chamber approved al-Ta‘if as it is, after making only slight changes, if any. [passage omitted]

At any rate, observers believe that the people, whose dignity, freedom, and independence have been encroached upon, should express their opinion. This opinion will be the decisive factor.

Sa‘adah Outlines Stand on Reforms, Government

NC1908120990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Only two days before the Chamber of Deputies is scheduled to hold a session to discuss constitutional reforms, Minister George Sa‘adah today revealed the real aims connected with the approval of the constitutional reforms.

In a radio interview in which Sa‘adah did not conceal his nervousness, the Phalangist minister said: I approve of the text and spirit of al-Ta‘if agreement, but I do not approve of the implementation mechanism. To whom would I give reforms and to whom would I give powers? To the president of the Republic who cannot but move between floors six and seven of the building in which he is residing?

Sa‘adah accused President al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker al-Husayni, and Prime Minister al-Huss of disagreeing. He revealed that he returned to the government after obtaining promises that there is time to discuss the constitutional reforms and to make secure the living conditions from which citizens have been suffering following the exacerbation of the events in the eastern area.

While claiming that he is eager to achieve constitutional reforms, Sa‘adah said: Let them return the situation to normal; then they will have all the reforms they want. Sa‘adah regarded the facts that expose his policy as campaigns of lies. He nervously said: All must understand that I succumb to neither political blackmail nor propaganda blackmail. I submit only to my convictions and to my party's decisions.

It has been noticed that Sa‘adah's nervous statements came only hours after our radio had broadcast information related to the meetings that were held recently among Sa‘adah, Samir Ja‘ja‘, and a number of Christian deputies during which Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja‘ja‘ categorically rejected approval of the constitutional reforms before the ‘Awn issue is resolved and held the deputies responsible for any steps that contradict this direction.

The information also revealed a plan by a group in the legitimate army that is directly coordinating with the Lebanese Forces. The plan is to enter the areas under ‘Awn control from the direction of Duzhur al-Shuwayr using a mechanized brigade, provided that a chance is given to the Lebanese Forces to intervene alongside the Army so that the Lebanese Forces might be regarded as the ones who accomplished this and consequently resume a strong decision-making position and further blackmail the legitimate authority.

Amal Source on Attack by Iranian-Backed Groups

NC2208150590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] A military source in the Amal Movement has accused Iranian groups of shelling the movement's positions on Hamadah and al-Sakhriyah hills and in the townships of Habbush, Kafr Hatta, Jarju‘, and ‘Arab Salim, in preparation for infiltrating into the movement's positions.

Fatah Deploys Troops at Entrances to Sidon Camps

NC2008175990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Fatah Movement today deployed troops at the approaches to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. REUTER has cited Lieutenant Colonel Munir al-Maqdah, military official in charge of Fatah's Force 17, as saying that the purpose of this measure is to maintain security in 'Ayn al-Hulwah after it had been brought under control. He noted that all those who had taken part in the Jabal al-Halib clashes against the Fatah forces were arrested.

Firefights in East Beirut; South Overflights

NC2108061190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces positions in al-Husayniyah section of al-Nab'ah, al-Shuwaytir, and al-Shaluhi came under heavy-caliber machine gun fire from 'Awn's gunmen positions in Ra's al-Dikwanah and al-Dikwanah at 0120 today. 'Awn's gunmen responded by firing RPG-7, RPG-10, and mortar shells at the Lebanese Forces positions. At 0140, after 'Awn's gunmen fired 120-mm mortar shells at the Lebanese Forces position, the Lebanese Forces had to return fire. At 0150, a cease-fire was reached. [passage omitted]

Shortly before 2200 yesterday, Israeli military planes overflew Sidon and other areas in the South, firing illumination flares.

'Awn Gunmen Fire at LF

NC2208120290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] 'Awn's gunmen have resumed their attacks on Beirut lines. At 1106 today they fired mortar and 106-mm artillery rounds at the Lebanese Forces [LF] positions in Jisr al-Wati and Sinn al-Fil where two other rounds fell at 1145. The LF did not return the fire.

Military reinforcements have been observed on the side of 'Awn gunmen's positions along the newly created combat lines.

Clashes Continue in South, Iqlim Al-Tuffah

Resistance, Israeli Activities

NC2108055390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] In the south, resistance fighters used katyusha's to attack a position held by Israeli occupation forces on Kawkaba hill in the eastern sector. Israeli forces had earlier lit and searched the liberated area from 'Ayn Qinya to Shwayya and Mimis.

The occupation forces also directed heavy-caliber automatic weapons fire at Mazra'at 'Ayn Fujur and (al-Dabaghit) forest. Meanwhile, a Lahd militia force raked Zummarayya-al-Hasbani line with gunfire. Civilian cars parked near the crossing point were hit.

According to security information, the militia also surrounded the forests of Mazra'at Shubayr and carried out a three-hour search after raking the forests with automatic weapons and rockets. Israeli occupation forces used artillery to shell the Jabbur-Abu Rashid line and the vicinity of Maydun in Western al-Biqa'. They also opened machine gun fire from Taw'amat Niha hill. The enemy forces also raked Wadi al-Suluqi following clashes between rsistance fighters and an occupation forces patrol west of al-Tayyibah.

Resistance Attacks Enemy Position

NC2208112490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] A group of resistance fighters this morning attacked a joint enemy-agents position on 'Alman hill, using rockets and automatic weapons. The group clashed with the guards at the post for 15 minutes. During the clash, the occupation forces shelled the areas of al-Ghanduriyah, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and Frun. No information is available about enemy and agent casualties. No casualties have been reported among the resistance fighters.

Amal, Hizballah Resume Fighting

NC2208162590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Regarding the security situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, clashes betwen the Amal Movement and Hizballah resumed today in the wake of overnight skirmishes that involved the use of various types of automatic weapons and rockets.

An Amal Movement military source accused Hizballah of using heavy-caliber rockets to bombard Amal's positions in Hamadah and the al-Sakhriyah hills and Habbush, Kafr Hatta, Jarju', and 'Arab Salim, in preparation for infiltrating into Amal's positions.

Speaker Meets Union Delegation, Discusses Region

JN2208183990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah received this afternoon the delegation of the Arab-American organizations' union—FEAARA—in Brazil. Mr. Qaddurah delivered a speech during the meeting in which he stressed the importance of the role Arab expatriates' organizations and unions play in serving the fatherland and its just causes.

Mr. Qaddurah discussed the American parliamentarians' of Arab origin organization headquartered in Damascus whose activities serve resident and expatriate Arabs, and the organization's concern to strengthen the feelings of expatriates and bring them closer to their family and fatherland.

Mr. Qaddurah discussed current issues in the Arab region and the dangers resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said that Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is essential to avert the dangers and challenges from Iraq and the Arabs that are threatening the Arab nation's future and existence.

Members of the delegation then expressed their joy over visiting Syria and the development and progress they have seen here in every field. They also expressed their pride and the pride of all expatriates in Syria's courageous stands and numerous sacrifices for the sake of the Arabs and their vital causes under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and the great role Syria has played under his leadership on the Arab and international levels.

Al-Hirawi Calls Al-Asad on Constitutional Reform

JN2308070990 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1800 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a telephone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi who informed President al-Asad of the Lebanese parliament endorsement of constitutional reforms as provided in the national reconciliation charters. President al-Asad congratulated the Lebanese President on this important and encouraging step.

Algerian Official Explains Visit's Goal, Departs

JN2208162490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] (?Sa'id Ayat Masudan), vice president of the Algerian People's Assembly, has stated that the objective of his visit to Syria was to negotiate and exchange views with the Syrian parliament to serve the Arab cause.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent on leaving Damascus this afternoon, he said: We, as Arab parliamentarians, can help calm down the Arab situation and pave the way to containing the crisis in the Gulf. This is the loftiest goal for which we in Algeria and Syria are working.

Paper Justifies State Position at Cairo Summit

JN2208185590 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 14 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Miscalculations and the Dangers of the Gulf Crisis]

[Text] The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait at the beginning of this month created a very dangerous situation in the region as a whole, and for fraternal Iraq in particular, after developments where the Gulf region has now become flooded with fleets and multinational forces and heavy and light weapons and the world is about to witness the beginning of a confrontation the results of which are difficult to predict and the course of which will be difficult to control.

Perhaps many both inside and outside the region are anticipating events with questions, all of which pour in one direction. They ask:

How can this feverish urge for confrontation be curbed? And how can the region be protected from catastrophes and destruction that cannot be predicted? How can we protect Iraq, its people, and its resources from the evils of war and merciless logic?

Perhaps Syria is concerned with all these questions because of its weight and accurate perception of all that has happened and could happen, and since it is concerned for the Arab region's security and solidarity, the gathering of its resources against the joint enemy, the security of the Iraqi people, and the preservation of their forces and resources as ammunition for the crucial battle; and because Syria has been gathering its efforts for many years and has been trying to combine all Arab efforts for the pan-Arab battle from which rights can be retrieved and pan-Arab security maintained.

Arising from this fact, Syria carried its concepts, sincerity, and far-sightedness to the emergency summit in Cairo in search of an Arab solution to relieve those who had been treated unjustly of that injustice and to rectify the resolutions that led to igniting the fire and occupying fraternal Kuwait. This was done in the hope that she, along with the Arab brothers, would get the response needed for Arab efforts and action to have scope to proceed from these principles toward diffusing the tension that prophesizes explosion.

Since all this strain and tension in the world's nerves today has resulted from the Iraqi decision that led to the occupation of sisterly Kuwait, warding off the evils of a probable confrontation from the region and Iraq is no longer possible except by a counter-decision on Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, reinstating its legitimate government, and negotiating all points of difference between the two fraternal countries.

And since the required response from Iraq did not come, the declared summit resolutions became inevitable and Syria had to take its stand alongside justice whatever the circumstances.

The threat will increase further if a general view does not take precedence over the specific and pan-Arab considerations over the regional, in the Iraqi Government's calculations, and if it does not take the correct position that prohibits the occupation of land by force and the assassination of the will of the fraternal Kuwaiti people in such a bitter fashion.

Will this happen?

Commentary Stresses Need for Iraqi Withdrawal

JN2208193390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the developments emanating from it is getting worse day by day. Overcoming the crisis is a pressing task to which Arab efforts are aimed at saving Iraq and the Arab nation from the grave dangers surrounding them and lying in wait for their present and future.

If there were an Arab and international consensus that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has brought the Arab nation face to face with the most dangerous crisis in its modern history, then defusing the devastating explosion and dissipating the clouds of the crisis must begin by eliminating the causes of the arrival of foreign forces and fleets to the region and discrediting the pretexts of foreign intervention. Hence, an emergency Arab summit resolution was adopted; it stemmed from the need to ward off danger from the Arab homeland and give Arab efforts and decisions their role in tackling the crisis. Iraq's failure to comply with the emergency Arab summit resolution has exacerbated the crisis, thickened the clouds overshadowing the region' skies, and permitted foreign interference. Iraq continues to ignore all calls for ending the crisis. The Arab and international resolutions were adopted to prevent a possible disaster whose devastating effects might include Iraq and the Arab region.

Anyone following events will note with great concern that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait—an invasion condemned by the Arabs and the international community—has dealt a painful blow to Arab solidarity because it came at a time when the Arab situation was beginning to recover and improve and Arab relations had begun to take a positive direction toward establishing and promoting genuine solidarity serving the just Arab cause and providing a strong basis for joint Arab action against the Zionist danger, which is threatening all the Arabs without exception.

An initial result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was to expose the security of Iraq and the Arab nation to the dangers of a serious foreign intervention. Moreover, this invasion has resulted in a setback and disruption to Arab solidarity. Thus, it has created appropriate conditions for the Zionist enemy to escalate its savage repressive measures against the intifadah and its masses, to intensify Jewish immigration to the occupied territories while world public opinion is preoccupied with the Gulf crisis, and to exploit the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in propagandist campaigns to divert world public opinion from supporting the just Arab cause to considering the Arabs the source of danger and tension in the region. The enemy leaders' statements and the venom squirted out by their news media all pour this direction. Where is the Arab interest in what happened and is happening? Where is the Arab interest in not responding to the voice of reason nor giving priority to the higher Arab interest over any other interest?

The way out of the crisis is clear and the way to bring about the departure or evacuation of foreign forces from the region is also clear. It begins with the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government. This is the correct approach for tackling the worsening situation and eliminating the reasons that led to the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf.

Since the beginning of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Syria has made efforts to contain the crisis and resolve it within the Arab framework before it deteriorated. Syria's efforts and contacts continue to focus on finding an Arab solution as embodied in the emergency summit resolution in order to save Iraq and the Arab nation from the dangers of foreign interference and the tragedies and disasters it might inflict on the Arabs.

Afghanistan

Troops Take 'Key' Resistance Base, Slowly Advance

BK2308022490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0158 GMT 23 Aug 90

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Paghman, Afghanistan, Aug 23 (AFP)—Paghman once served as a summertime retreat in the hills for the king of Afghanistan and a weekend holiday resort for the citizens of Kabul. More recently, the town was a key stronghold of the Afghan resistance who used it as a base for daily rocketting of the capital until they were forced to retreat a month ago in the face of a fierce government offensive.

Now virtually nothing remains of the town famed for its salubrious climate, greenery, rich fruit, hotels, restaurants and water said to be Afghanistan's clearest and purest. The stately king's castle is in ruins and every building has been razed to the ground. A victory arch, built in the 1920s to commemorate Afghanistan's independence is pockmarked with bullet holes and bomb shrapnel scars.

No one lives in Paghman, though government engineers drive from Kabul to make plans for rebuilding the town, 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of Kabul. Paghman may be rubble, but it is at the center of what the Kabul government is touting as one of its biggest military achievements in the fight against the mujahidin trying to topple the pro-Soviet government.

Afghan troops have accomplished what Soviet troops did not attempt, driving the resistance out of Paghman, military officials boast. "Paghman has been taken by the armed forces, it is a reality whether the opposition admits it or not," said Lieutenant General Mohammad Nabi Azimi, the first deputy defence minister.

Government forces were slowly but steadily advancing further in a westerly direction after securing the town, which was wrested from resistance control at the end of three months heavy combat, the general said. Soldiers were manning distant security posts in the hills when a small group of journalists were taken by Jeep on a guided tour of what was once the town on Monday.

No military escorts were present on the hour's hair-raising drive to Paghman along a dusty, shell-cratered road. Intermittent machine gun fire was heard from the hills to the south of Paghman.

Some 2,000 armed mujahidin were defending the town when the government went on the offensive in mid-April after first asking the resistance to stop rocketting Kabul and surrender, Lt. Gen. Azimi said. The assault launched from three directions, backed by heavy artillery barrages and countless sorties by fighter bombers dropping incendiary shells, involved some 3,000 soldiers, most of them tough Uzbek militiamen. Scores of artillery pieces, missile launchers, tanks and armored personnel carriers were pressed into action.

Troops freed 220 square kilometers (90 square miles) in the Paghman region and 32 villages, now lying in rubble, from resistance control after killing 448 mujahidin and wounding more than 900, Lt. Gen. Azimi said. Government casualties were put at 61 killed and 432 wounded, figures which some observers discounted as too low considering the intensity of the fighting, the worst around Kabul in recent years.

"The rest of the armed opposition were forced to flee the battleground," said the soft-spoken general who wore military fatigues and sported a smart pair of sunglasses as he spoke to reporters in Kabul on Monday [20 August]. He said he believes the mujahidin will try to retake Paghman but that the government will continue its operations "until the armed opposition is purged" and the city's defence perimeter expanded.

He also warns that the almost daily rocketting of Kabul will not cease as the mujahidin are now equipped with new longer-range, U.S.-made R-36 rockets with a range of 35 kilometers (21 miles), capable of hitting the city center. Between March 21, the start of the Afghan year, and August 20, the resistance fired 157 rockets into Kabul, killing 280 civilians and injuring 770 by official count. Figures for military rocket casualties are kept secret. Lt. Gen. Azimi said more than 50 per cent of the rockets came from the Paghman region.

Military analysts here have warned that the government stands the risk of overstretching its resources and manpower and faces difficulties in resupplying its outposts in trying to hang onto Paghman. Soviet troops had reportedly balked from launching a full scale assault on the area because they were unwilling to take the losses and logistic drain involving in keeping it, the analysts said.

Ministry Protests Pakistani Air Violations

LD2208154790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The Information and Publicity Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the charge d'affaires of Pakistan's embassy was summoned at 1430 this afternoon to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the protest of the Republic of Afghanistan Government was conveyed to him with the following details by the director of First Political Department.

Related authorities of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan report to us that two Pakistani helicopters entered on 10 August, against internationally-accepted norms, the air space of the Republic of Afghanistan in Babatangi area in Wakhan District and carried out a reconnaissance flight flew back to Pakistan's territory. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protest about those types of violations by the Pakistan Air force, which are against international principles and the Geneva agreements, into the air space of the Republic of Afghanistan, and demand from the responsible authorities of Pakistan to refrain from the repetition of those type violations in the future. Otherwise the responsibility of their grave consequences will rest with Pakistan.

Tribal Brigades Ordered Out of Kabul by 1 Sep

LD2208150790 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] All tribal brigades which have their headquarters in the city of Kabul have been told to remove their headquarters from the city of Kabul by 1 September and to station them in the combat operation areas of their related zones. After that date, all their headquarters will be searched, and if any arms and weapons are found on the premises, the related tribal brigade will be disbanded, their salaries will be halted, and the armed forces prosecution offices will be informed.

Following previous statements, it is once again stressed that members of tribal brigades must seriously refrain from movement in the city while they are bearing arms, otherwise they will be disarmed, arrested, and brought to legal accountability. Esteemed Kabul residents are requested to report any such violations.

Bangladesh

Kuwaiti Special Envoy Meets President Ershad

BK2208161790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwaiti oil minister and special envoy of the Amir of Kuwait, Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri, called on President Ershad in Dhaka today. The envoy conveyed a message of Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to President Ershad. In his message, the amir thanked President Ershad and the people of Bangladesh for extending support to Kuwait. The envoy explained the developments in the Gulf. President Ershad reiterated to the envoy Bangladesh's support to Kuwait and said on principle, Bangladesh is opposed to aggression and the use of force. Bangladesh, he said, favors peaceful settlement of disputes.

Later, at a news conference in Dhaka, the special envoy said chances of the diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis have not been exhausted. He said the solution lies on Iraq's readiness to withdraw its troops from occupied Kuwait.

700 Nationals Return From Kuwait 23 Aug

BK2308073090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0708 GMT 23 Aug 90

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 23 (AFP)—More than 700 Bangladeshis returned from Kuwait to a joyful, tearful welcome here Thursday aboard two separate flights from Saudi Arabia. A first batch of 414 arrived at Zia International Airport on a special Saudi Airlines flight, followed by another group of 300 on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines plane.

The Bangladeshis, who fled through the Al-Ruqi and Al-Khafzi border posts, were the first to return home of an estimated 7,000 nationals of this country who have already sought refuge in Saudi Arabia. There were an estimated 75,000 Bangladeshis in Kuwait and 25,000 in Iraq at the time of Baghdad's August 2 invasion of its oil-rich southern neighbour.

"We lost everything but our lives," said one evacuee, who, like most of those who arrived Thursday, had left behind almost all of his savings and belongings. Kuwait, another said, had turned into "a city of fear ... Just like a ghost town," with widespread panic due to looting by the invading forces.

"I succeeded in my fourth attempt (to flee) on August 11," said Shunil Chandra Dey, 30, "and drove through the desert under a scorching sun along with several hundred nationals from different Asian countries." He reached the Saudi border after a two-day drive, Mr. Dey said.

Relatives rushed to the airport after news of the arrival was broadcast on national radio and television. Begum Nurunnahar, whose husband Nurul Islam is a driver in Kuwait, watched expectantly with her three children as the passengers disembarked. "Hope and faith in Allah brought us to the airport," she said. "Maybe he is among the passengers." But he was not.

Dhaka has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, backed U.N. Security Council resolutions for mandatory sanctions against Baghdad and agreed to a request by Riyadh to send a token military force to defend Saudi Arabia against a possible Iraqi attack. Bangladesh has also rejected an Iraqi demand that, along with other countries, it close its embassy in Kuwait.

Iraq's ambassador here gave assurances Wednesday that all Bangladeshis employed in Kuwait and Iraq were free to go home and guaranteed that no harm would come to them. But reports late Wednesday said Bangladeshis were among those turned back by Iraqi border guards as they fled Kuwait on Iranian convoys.

Mr. Dey quoted fellow inmates at the camp in Riyadh, who arrived after Dhaka's August 15 announcement that it would send troops to Saudi Arabia, as saying the invading troops' treatment of Bangladeshis had become harsher since.

The government here met late Wednesday under President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, reportedly to discuss the gulf crisis and the evacuation of Bangladeshis from Kuwait and Iraq. Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said Dhaka was looking into the poossibility of moving its nationals out through Iraq's borders with Iran and Turkey in case mass evacuations became necessary.

500 Fishermen Reported Missing After Storm

BK2308052890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0506 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 23 (AFP)—At least 500 Bangladeshi fishermen and their boats were missing after they were caught in stormy weather in the Bay of Bengal, a newspaper here reported Thursday.

Ekramul Huda Chowdhury, president of the Cox's Bazaar Boat Owners Association, told the SANGBAD newspaper that the fishermen were in 100 boats and have been missing since Monday. Local officials were not immediately available for comment.

India

Gujral To Make Statement on Talks With Saddam

BK2208160390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, has said that he will make a detailed statement regarding his talks with the Iraqi president, Mr. Saddam Husayn, and the Gulf situation in parliament tomorrow. He said he will not disappoint the world when he makes the statement.

Mr. Gujral returned to New Delhi this evening after his visit to Iraq and Kuwait. About 200 stranded Indians, including expectant mothers, were also brought in the special IAF [Indian Air Force] flight. The passengers included sick persons also who were provided medical aid immediately after the plane landed.

Answering queries on his arrival, Mr. Gujral said there are no telling shortages of essential commodities in Kuwait. Ration shops are open and banks would have opened by today. All essential services are functioning. Mr. Gujral said a sizeable number of Indians in Kuwait want to return home. Arrangements are being made to evacuate them.

Further Remarks on Gulf

BK2308031890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] India will begin airlifting its stranded nationals direct from Basra in Iraq in a day or two. This was announced by the external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, in New Delhi last night on his return from a week-long visit to Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait. He said that he will make a detailed statement on his talks with President Saddam Husayn of Iraq and on the Gulf situation in parliament today. He said his statement will not disappoint the world.

Mr. Gujral, who was the first foreign minister to have met President Saddam Husayn after the recent crisis in the Gulf, also said that it is our wish and effort to see that the present crisis is defused.

Answering questions from newsmen, Mr. Gujral said that his statement will also cover his talks on oil supplies and the question of closing the Indian Embassy in Kuwait. A special Indian Air Force flight from Baghdad also brought about 200 stranded Indian nationals. He said though there is anxiety among the Indians in Kuwait, there is no tension or panic. The ration shops are open and essential services are functioning. He said a sizable number of Indians in Kuwait want to return home and arrangements are being made to evacuate them. Mr. Gujral praised the work of Indian missions in Kuwait and Baghdad in handling the situation.

At the Delhi airport, special arrangements were made to provide medical and financial help to the Indian nationals who arrived from Baghdad. The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, told our correspondent that the government will provide financial assistance to help them reach home. The assistance will also be available in all cities from where international flights operate.

Committee Set Up To Review Kashmir Arrests

BK1808085890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a three-member screening committee has been constituted to review all cases of arrest and detention. This was stated by the advisor to the governor, Mr. J.M. Qureshi, in Srinagar yesterday. The committee will include the director general of police and the divisional commissioner of Srinagar.

Meanwhile, security forces killed 12 militants and arrested 10 in different incidents in the valley yesterday. The militants were killed while trying to sneak into the Indian side. Among those arrested is the self-styled JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] area commander of Baramula. Curfew in Srinagar city has been relaxed for 12 hours from 0600 this morning.

Students Demonstrate Over Job Reservation Policy

BK2208165090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Students in several parts of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Delhi today boycotted classes and blocked traffic to protest against the new reservation policy. In the capital, the students from six colleges held demonstrations in front of All-India Radio and Doordarshan [Television] premises. In Andhra Pradesh, demonstrators pelted stones and damaged state owned buses at several places. The post-graduate university students in Calcutta and the medical college students in Punjab also held demonstrations.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadev, today said in Lucknow that the state government will consider some reservation of jobs in government services for the poor people of the forward classes as well. Mr Yadev told PTI [PRESS TRUST

OF INDIA] that non-implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendation [on reservation of jobs for backward classes] will be a breach of confidence of the people who voted this government to power.

Chandigarh Police Arrest Six 'Terrorists'

BK1808041690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] The Chandigarh police today arrested six terrorists, including a woman, and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from their possession. The Chandigarh inspector general of police told newsmen that four of them were arrested early this morning at a police check post outside the city. Following their interrogation, two more terrorists, including a woman, were arrested this afternoon.

Four Fishermen 'Assaulted' by Sri Lankan Navy

BK2108170490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Four Indian fishermen were intercepted and assaulted by Sri Lankan naval personnel when they were fishing near Kachchaitivu yesterday. The catch and nets were also seized.

Naval Ship Sinks in Bay of Bengal During Storm

BK2208164490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The Indian naval ship INS "Andaman" [was] lost in the sea due to heavy flooding and rough weather yesterday. Fourteen persons, including three officers, are reported missing while 110 members of the crew have so far been rescued. The incident occurred about 150 miles off Vishakhapatnam during a routine fleet exercise in the Bay of Bengal.

Indigenously Built Offshore Patrol Ship Launched

BK2208082190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The union minister for petroleum and chemicals, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, has called upon the Indian shipyards to make strenuous efforts to achieve higher levels of productivity and quality. The minister was speaking at a launching ceremony of the offshore patrol vessel, "Sharada," at the Hindustan Shipyard in Visakhapatnam today. He said the rapid development of the shipping industry will ensure progress of the economy and save a substantial amount of foreign exchange.

INS [Indian Naval Ship] "Sharada" is the third of the four patrol vessels being built for the first time at the shipyard for the Indian Navy.

Iran

President Says Iraq Lied After Khorramshahr

LD2208133690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Address by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to a "gathering of hundreds of children of the martyrs" at the Presidential Palace in Tehran; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God. Peace be upon the apostle of God and his scion. I would like to welcome you, the dear children of Islam and the Koran, to the Presidential Palace. I am delighted to meet you. I wish you knew how much I love you and how fond of you I am. I would like to say, in a calculated summary, that no one's role was greater than that of the martyrs in the realization of these victories and these days. Those days, therefore, belong to you. [passage omitted] No one should be as happy as you, because your martyrs are the happiest souls before God. They see that all their aspirations are realized.

What was the objective of your fathers during the war? What were they seeking on the battlefields? We were telling [the enemy] to leave our territories and to respect the signed treaty and the borders; and we wanted justice to rule on both sides, that is, the aggressor and the aggrieved should receive their just desserts. No doubt, if the Iraqi Government had done the same thing after our victory in Khorramshahr that it did today, the war would have ended on that same day. On that day, too, he [Saddam Husayn] said: We have retreated from the vicinity of Khorramshahr, but he stayed where he was in Mehran and in the central and northern sectors. He was using propaganda, but it was a lie. I have mentioned this point in one of the letters I wrote during this period. You can see them, if one day we publicize these letters. The history of the war and its significant phases are partially mentioned in several letters which were exchanged. Truly, if he had made the same declaration he announced in his last letter on that day, the war would have ended at that time.

Well, what you should have received after the Khorramshahr victory you have received today. That is, after years of extra jihad, sacrifices, and other matters that you are aware of. In fact, what your fathers were seeking is realized now. We never coveted Iraqi territory. Truly, we did not even want an inch of Iraqi territory. Even when we were on Iraqi territory, we used to say: We will leave as soon as the war ends. Well, we came out, accepted Resolution 598 and came over to this side of our border. We did not have any claims against Iraq, either. We had not initiated the war to have claims. We were in favor of the 1975 [Algerian] treaty. It respected the rights of the two nations, it was good, and we wanted it. But it was not given to us in the course of the war, even when we captured al-Faw, Halabjah, and the [Majnun] Islands. Even then, they did not give it to us, despite the fact that our forces had the upper hand and were advancing. They were never ready to [compromise], but today they became ready and gave us [our right]. This victory is the same one that your fathers were seeking. They are victorious today, and you should celebrate your fathers' victory today; and our nation, too, should realize that it has reached the goals of its martyrs.

In gratitude to our martyrs, these selfless warriors, our disabled, the POW's, and the missing in action, we should do a lot. Our most important task is to continue their path. This is the important task. We have other duties, too, and some of them concern you. We are duty bound to look after you. [passage omitted]

Commentary Hopes for Lasting Peace With Iraq

LD2208144590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1121 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The Iraqi Government, by withdrawing the last of its forces from Iranian territory yesterday, fulfilled the promises made last week by Iraq's president. In a letter to our country's president, Saddam said that his forces would withdraw from the territory they occupied in Iran in the course of five days. [passage omitted]

While the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Iranian territory is another great victory for the Muslim people of Iran—following the acceptance of the 1975 treaty by Iraq—the first clause of Resolution 598, which was passed by the Security Council three years ago, can now be considered as realized. [passage omitted]

Following the acceptance of Resolution 598, the Islamic Republic of Iran respected that resolution's clause on the withdrawal of forces to recognized international borders after the establishment of the cease-fire; however, Iraqi forces penetrated Iranian territory once again. This created difficulties which, in spite of the cease-fire declaration in Mordad in July 1988, prevented any progress in the peace negotiations and undermined the implementation of UN Resolution 598.

The tripartite talks between Iran, Iraq, and the UN secretary-general produced no results, because of Iraq's viewpoints and the incorrect positions that were adopted by most of the Security Council's members who were not interested in seriously following up their resolution. However, the start of the correspondence between the presidents of Iran and Iraq and the start of direct talks between the representatives of the two countries at Geneva contributed to removing rapidly the existing obstacles in the path of peace. The way was opened, therefore, for Iraq's final acceptance of the 1975 Algiers Accord and withdrawal of Iraqi forces to international borders.

Of course, there is no doubt that the latest developments in the Persian Gulf have been effective in speeding up this tendency. [passage omitted]

With the removal of major difficulties to the realizations of peace, the two nations of Iran and Iraq find themselves on the threshold of a peaceful and amicable existence which we hope will last for ever.

Papers Carry Editorials on Gulf Crisis

LD2008135690 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—Three morning dailies Monday editorialized on crisis in the Persian Gulf region, terming presence of the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia a "terrible disgrace" for the Islamic world.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI stressed that opposition to the military presence of the U.S. in the region should by no means be interpreted as a gesture in favor of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

Iran, the daily wrote, has strongly condemned Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, but this should not be considered a move in support of "Al- Sabah's incompetent regime" who in fact committed a treason against his own people.

It argued that no one even the Kuwaiti people themselves is willing to help save and return the incompetent Kuwait sheikhs to power.

The daily noted that the "fugitive" Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has recently started an extensive campaign—"political wandering"—and plans to visit a number of countries including Iran in future.

If al-Sabah had cared as much about the territorial integrity of Kuwait and safeguarding the lives and property of his people, just as he now cares for restoring his power, he would not have needed this political campaign, wrote the daily.

It stressed that a regime in power must symbolize dignity, honor and resistance of the people, and work untiringly to this end.

More on the fate of al-Sabah it said, "this same ominous fate will be shared by all incompetent kings and undoubtedly al-Sa'ud too will leave their people alone in the face of any aggression and as soon as they sense a serious threat," the article noted.

The Saudi ruler has now openly accepted U.S. domination over his country, turning Saudi Arabia into the 52nd state of America, said the daily.

"Just as Iraq annexed Kuwait to its territory, the United States has annexed Saudi Arabia to its realm. This is the unmasked profile of the servitors of the holy places (Mecca and al-Madinah)," the paper added.

Calling it a terrible disgrace on the Islamic world, the daily said however that no disgrace is worse than remaining silent vis-a- vis such an insult on Islam and Muslims.

Meanwhile, ABRAR called on the world Muslims to launch an all-out effort to help solve the Persian Gulf crisis.

It noted that situation in the Persian Gulf has made a remarkable change and that the Arab public opinion has turned in favor of the Iraqi nation.

"Any blow on or move against Iraq especially under the status quo that Baghdad is facing Washington, the West, and the Arab reactionaries, cannot be taken indifferently by Muslim public opinion," the daily stressed.

A possible U.S. attack on Iraq or damaging key Iraqi installations would raise the probability of a general mobilization by the Muslims to take retaliatory measures, ABRAR said.

"In the light of this reality, Muslims from North Africa to the Indian Sub-continent could unite as a potential force to deal blows on Western interests, especially those of the U.S." wrote the daily.

However, it concluded, Iran as a focal point for political activities could exert utmost efforts to unite the Islamic world and produce a political formula through cooperation of Muslims, to solve the Persian Gulf crisis.

Commenting on the same subject, the English-language KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL pointed to the U.S. warning to deploy the most sophisticated weapons in its arsenal against Baghdad.

"If the U.S. Government has no respect for Iraqi life in its wrath why should the Iraqi Government be concerned with Western life?' argued the paper.

Iraq has raised the stakes in the crisis by saying it will hold "captive" Westerners trapped there and in Kuwait by sending them to military bases and key installations to act as shields against possible U.S. acts.

"What should be stressed here is that there is no difference between Iraqi life and Western life. If the U.S. in a most selfish and apathetic way should plan to 'beat the hell' out of Iraqis, then the Iraqi Government and people should have every right to use the Westerners in that country as pawn or whatever they deem necessary," said the daily.

U.S. Forces Seen as Threat to Gulf Security

LD1908150490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] It was revealed by the U.S. defense secretary that U.S. and Saudi officials have signed an agreement on the long-term presence of U.S. forces in that country.

On the basis of the agreement U.S. troops will remain in Saudi Arabia as long as necessary, and they will leave Saudi Arabia when the king asks them to. The U.S. defense secretary also stressed the possibility of U.S. forces remaining in Saudi Arabia for a long time and possibly for a number of years. This new development in the crisis-torn region shows that the United States is hurriedly trying to take advantage of the illegal Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in order to secure its long-term position in the region. In other words, the United States has started collecting the spoils before achieving any victory or defeat in its confrontation against Iraq.

This American haste is a result of world developments, which have conferred particular value on the role of energy and oil as fundamental determining factors in the economic and political power of countries in the future world. That is, the one who controls energy and oil resources holds the initiative in the future.

In order to compete with two emerging economic powers, namely a united Europe and Japan, America sees no option but domination of energy resources.

The extreme weakness and fragility of many of the regimes in the region—sitting on energy resources but incapable of defending themselves, an example of which we witnessed in the eight-hour takeover of Kuwait by the Iraqi invaders—is another reason for America's haste to have a military presence in the region.

Without foresight and providence in the regrettable outcome of its invasion of Kuwait and insistence on its occupation, Iraq has provided the U.S. Government with the excuse to dispatch massive military forces to the region under the pretext of defending Saudi Arabia. And the Saudi rulers, relying on the presence of those forces and in line with their gradual increase, have stepped up their intimidation of Iraq and have finally created a long-lasting threat to the security of the region through signing a long-term military agreement with the United States.

By distributing its forces in a number of Arab countries in the Persian Gulf and possibly through signing similar agreements for a so-called legitimization of that presence, the United States is strengthening its domination over energy and oil resources.

At the same time, Britain also wants to get a share of the spoils of war even before a victory is achieved, and has stationed military forces in some of those countries.

The Saudi Arabian regime, which must pay $7,000 a minute for the presence of U.S. forces at present, has completely submitted itself and its Army to the U.S. forces in order to guarantee its security for the continuation of its rule.

The security of the ruling families is secondary to the security of the oil resources for the U.S. Government—a government that intends to protect oil and energy resources. And secondary values can always be traded.

Experts believe that the Saudi Arabian agreement with the United States on the long-term presence of the U.S. forces has introduced a long-lasting threat to the region which can lead to new developments, as a result of which weak and unpopular regimes would no longer feel safe.

The Saudi threat to increase oil production to compensate for the shortage of oil resulting from the embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil proves that through its domination over Saudi oil resources, the United States has become an important element which makes decisions on the price of oil and the level of its production; and that is a factor which threatens the independence and sovereignty of the countries of the region, and will damage oil-producing countries.

Papers Preview Kuwaiti Foreign Minister's Visit

War Support for Iraq Recalled

LD2208145490 Tehran IRNA in English 1109 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies in their editorials Wednesday commented on the likely visit to Tehran of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and asked how was he going to justify Kuwait's support for Iraq during the 1980-88 war.

The Persian daily ABRAR said that in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf crisis, Iran is turned into a center of international activities with ranking foreign personalities arriving for consultations with the Iranian officials. The daily criticized Kuwait for its failure to oppose Iraqi aggression on Iran and deplored political and financial support it rendered to Baghdad. Had Kuwait listened to Iran's advice ten years ago, it would not have fallen a victim of aggression now, said the daily. It reminded the Kuwaiti foreign minister that by coming to Tehran he is seeking sympathy from the same people who during the war fell victims to missiles and bombs supplied by Kuwaiti money.

Stressing that Iran condemns aggression in all forms, ABRAR said that Iran will receive the Kuwaiti foreign minister to hear what he has got to say about "aggression".

Referring to the huge financial assistance Kuwait offered to Iraq during the imposed war, the English daily TEHRAN TIMES said, "Kuwait stopped short of nothing to undercut Iran's financial capability during the very bad economic years the country was going through."

The daily strongly criticized Kuwait for having called for increase in the oil output of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) during the Iraq-Iran war saying that it led to decrease in Iran's oil revenues. Despite Iran's attempts to awaken the southern states of the Persian Gulf, they continued to help Iraq mainly for racial considerations, it said.

The daily also lashed out at the U.S. for [words indistinct] to the region under the pretext of defending Saudi Arabia. But, the fact is that the U.S. was only concerned about its own imperialistic interests in the region.

"As far as the al-Sabah visit to Tehran is concerned, it should be noted that Iran's agreement to it does not by any means imply a backtracking from its previous policies," said the editorial. Condemning aggression against any country, the daily said, "but such a condemnation does not necessarily imply entirely unstinted support for the ruling regime of any particular country."

"The Kuwaiti problem, however, should be a lesson to one and all," concluded the daily.

Minister Arrives 22 Aug

LD2208223590 Tehran IRNA in English 2138 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived here at the head of a political delegation. Al-Sabah, whose tiny state was invaded by Iraq on August 2, is to hand a message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival at the airport, the Kuwaiti foreign minister thanked the Iranian nation and leaders for their "sincere stance" towards Iraq's occupation of his country.

Iran has explicitly condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as well as the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf which it regards a threat to peace and security in the volatile region.

"We congratulate Iran in her victory in compelling Iraq to accept the Iranian people will achieve the rest of their objectives," he said.

After his occupation of Kuwait, Iraq's Saddam [words indistinct] all the Iranian conditions for peace with Baghdad. They included the unconditional acceptance of the 1975 accord which decides the border between the two states, Iraqi troops withdrawal from some 2,600 sq. kms of occupied Iranian territories, and an immediate exchange of all prisoners of war within the context of the Security Council Resolution 598.

Iraq's submission to Iran's conditions was viewed by political analysts as a great victory for the Islamic Republic which put up a brave resistance for eight years in an unwanted war while its enemy was fully backed by the big powers and reactionary states in the region. Kuwait, like Saudi Arabia, was a major financial and political backer of the Baghdad regime during the war with Iran.

In his interview at the Tehran airport, al-Sabah ruled out a diplomatic solution to the Kuwaiti crisis "despite great efforts launched by the Arab heads of state to this effect."

During his stay here, the Kuwaiti foreign minister will discuss the latest developments in the Persian Gulf, including Iraq's occupation of his country, with Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati.

Exodus From Kuwait Reaches 35,000

LD2208135890 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA--Nearly 35,000 Iranians from occupied Kuwait have entered Iran through the Shalamcheh border in Khuzistan after driving across Iraqi territory, until 1000 hours local time (06:30 GMT) Wednesday.

Iran's consul in Kuwait city, Dr Allahrad, who is currently in Shalamcheh to handle the problems of Iranians returning home, said so far 5,500 cars have crossed into Iran. He disclosed that a large number of Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Afghan nationals trying to join convoys heading for Iran were turned back to Kuwait by Iraqi troops from Basrah yesterday.

Allahrad expected the exodus of Iranian nationals from Kuwait—the result of the Iraqi occupation of the sheikhdom on August 2—to be complete in a week.

Papers Urge OPEC To 'Thwart' Saudis

LD2208135590 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should take appropriate measures to thwart the intentional blow by the Saudis on the organisation, said editorials in two Iranian dailies Wednesday.

Last Saturday, Saudi Arabia in a unilateral move announced that if OPEC fails to hold an emergency meeting, it will boost oil production by 37 percent to meet a shortfall resulting from an international embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI lashed out at the Saudi regime and said, "The unilateral move aimed at threatening OPEC and jeopardizing the interests of its member countries, a move which must be confronted."

The daily argued that the present critical situation in the world oil market is a problem of the consumers and not the producers.

It believed, "The consumer countries must, through using their strategic stocks, prevent the oil market crisis." It further opposed the proposal for another OPEC meeting.

The paper further believed that what matters to the Saudis is the interests of the Western oil cartels and Western governments and not those of oil producing countries. Saudi attitude in the past decade is a proof of this, it stressed.

It held the Saudis responsible for the sharp decline of oil prices in the past, forcing it to fall to less than 10 dollars per barrel from 35 dollars per barrel.

If the Saudis are once again commissioned to check increase in oil prices, the oil producing countries will stand against (Saudis') plans and will neutralize al-Saud's missions," it added.

The editorial in conclusion called on the OPEC members "to stand against the unilateral Saudi move and consider themselves responsible for safeguarding their own interests as well as maintaining order in oil production and market."

"If they (OPEC members) remain silent, they will have to pay dearly," warned the paper.

The other daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL believed that the Saudis by their threats against OPEC aimed "to save the U.S. and the West from the problems they are facing over..., to prevent the raising anew of an old scenario in the West that alternatives such as coal and electricity should take the place of oil as sources of energy, and to fulfill its commitment to its Western allies and create a balance in the world market."

The English-language daily also referred to the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) decision over the weekend to put its bases at the disposal of the U.S. military forces which according to OPEC analysts means that Saudi Arabia has now a fit ally in its new oil game.

"If the UAE follows the Saudi policy, OPEC would be faced with a serious threat (raising output) which would cause a price fall again," the daily predicted.

"Therefore, ... the organisation should take appropriate measures to counter further possible threats by Saudi Arabia and the UAE."

Majles Assails U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD2208180890 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—Majles members today focussed on the crisis in the Persian Gulf resulting from the influx of foreign military forces in the area in the aftermath of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Iran views foreign military presence especially that of the U.S. "with great sensitivity" and should teach Washington that its adventurism carries no benefit, representative of the western Izeh constituency said.

Abbass Musavi addressed himself to Arab governments particularly the Saudi regime who are hosting the U.S. soldiers and said "This humilitation will forever remain a stigma for you."

Qorbanali Salehabadi from Mashhad condemned both the invasion of "tiny Kuwait" and the NATO military expedition to the Persian Gulf.

One of the objectives of NATO is to "maintain in power the local shaykhs who have become terribly vulnerable after the Iraqi attack," he noted.

"While objective number 2 is to safeguard the illegal Zionist regime whose blotting out from the globe is the desire of world Muslims," Salehabadi thought that the third and fourth objectives were to restore power to the Kuwaiti shaykh and to "tighten Western grip on the shaky Saudi Arabia and its rich oil fields."

He warned Americans against mistaking the Muslim populated Persian Gulf region for Grenada or Panama. "Washington should know that the presence of Western forces is against the interests of all regional countries including the Islamic Republic," he added.

The deputy was highly critical of the intended visit to Iran of the Kuwaiti foreign minister in exile, and cautioned Iranian policy-makers of "dangers of the visit to our interests in the long run."

"We should stand against these (NATO) forces, but unfortunately we see some equivocal policies such as the visit of the Kuwaiti," which Salehabadi said "was not a not a correct decision and should be revised."

Parliamentarian Abdol-Hussein Moqtadaie from Abadan called the present events in the Persian Gulf "part of the aggression plotted by the great satan and carried out by its regional elements against the Islamic revolution." He recalled the "faint-hearted" reaction of global circles at the time of the Iraqi invasion of the Islamic Republic a decade ago, and said the new developments are a continuity of the aggression and plunder of the U.S. and Iraqi regimes.

"However, we practically proved to the world that we follow iron principles, irrespective of the weakness of strength of the neighbours. In fact what we do not like for ourselves, we do not like it for others either," said the member of parliament.

Noting that the denunciation of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait by Iranian officials is the best proof for this claim, Moqtadaie said "We Iran cannot accept the U.S. presence in the region, since this is a disgrace for the region."

Abol-Hassan Haerizadeh from Birjand regretted that the two holy shrines "are under the jackboots of U.S. Marines, the army of the great Satan." He called for marshalling of all resources and potentials of the Islamic ummah against the U.S.

Deputy Minister Meets Soviet, Danish Envoys

LD2208185990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Tehran met with our country's deputy foreign affairs minister in charge of European and U.S. affairs this evening and submitted a report on the results of the recent talks between the Soviet and Iraqi officials in Moscow.

With regard to the importance of security in the sensitive Persian Gulf region, our country's deputy foriegn affairs minister placed emphasis on a regional resolution of the current crisis.

The Danish ambassador to Tehran also met with our country's deputy foreign minister in charge of European and U.S. affairs this evening, and submitted a written message of Denmark's foreign minister for our country's foreign minister. The message supports the Islamic Republic of Iran's stands vis-a-vis current crisis in the Persian Gulf region and stresses the Danish Government's desire for an ever-increasing expansion in bilateral relations.

Customs Facilities Help Evacuees From Kuwait

LD2108214190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran customs office has announced that in coordination with the governorate general of Tehran Province it is prepared to provide full customs facilities for returning Iranian nationals from Kuwait.

The Islamic Republic of Iran customs office has also announced that according to agreements already reached the traffic of Soviet Muslims is continuing through the customs offices of Astara and Julfa.

Va'ezi, EC Ambassadors Discuss Gulf Crisis

LD1808184590 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—The ambassadors of the European Community member states to Iran today discussed the Persian Gulf crisis resulting from Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait with Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi.

The meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry at the invitation of Va'ezi, deputy for Euro-American affairs.

Officials Agree To Exchange 6,000 POW's Daily

Air Route Implemented

LD2208141190 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—Iran and Iraq have agreed to raise the number of the POWs to be exchanged daily to 12,000 (6,000 each) as of tomorrow, an Iranian official announced today. According to him, half of them will be flown to their homes and the rest will be transported by land.

The official, a member of the committee for the Iraqi POWs said so far 6,500 Iraqi POWs have been sent to their country in return for 6,000 Iranian POWs. He also said the POWs swap has been speeded up with the establishment of a Baghdad-Tehran air route.

An Air Force Jumbo 747 carried 500 Iraqi POWs at 15:10 local time (11:40 hours GMT) in the first flight to Baghdad. The plane is to return here with the same number of Iranian POWs.

Meanwhile, a group of the released Iraqi POWs thanked the Iranian officials for their hospitality and termed their condition at the Iranian camps "good". "Iranian officials had good behavior toward us, and we were only guests of the Islamic Republic of Iran," they said.

Karrubi Welcomes POW's Home

LD2208220990 Tehran IRNA in English 2020 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—A group of 500 Iranian prisoners of war were flown to Tehran from Baghdad Wednesday night aboard an Iranian plane which transferred the same number of Iraqi POWs to the Iraqi capital earlier in the day.

Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi greeted the new group of 'azadegan' (men of liberty) at the Tehran International Airport.

Iran and Iraq have agreed to speed up the prisoners swap by establishing an air route between the two capitals. According to the agreement the number of POWs to be exchanged each day by each side will reach 6,000, including 3,000 by air and the rest by land.

Addressing the liberated POWs, the speaker hailed them for their spirit of resistance during long years of captivity.

The Iraqi war against Iran started in September 1980 and active hostilities between the two neighborly Muslim states came to an end in July 1988 after Iran unconditionally accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the eight year old conflict.

Less than two weeks after his lightning invasion of Kuwait and the annexation of the tiny Persian Gulf sheykhdom, Saddam Husayn of Iraq in a letter to President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced that he will respect the 1975 border accord with Iran, will pull out his forces from occupied Iranian territories and free tens of thousands of Iranian POWs within a short period of time. Iraq troop withdrawal from Iran has been reportedly completed and the prisoners swap is proceeding as quick as possible.

"Although the enemy did not want your high morale be known to the world people but you introduced the revolution to the entire world with your spirit of resistance," Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi told the homecoming POWs. [sentence as received]

"Relatives of the martyrs, of the POWs, of those missing in action and of the combatants maintained an active presence in the scene and did not leave the imam and the revolution alone. And the Almighty too granted them victory," the speaker pointed out.

Iraqi Forces Withdraw From Khosravi Border Region

LD2108141890 Tehran IRNA in English 1203 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin (Bakhtaran), Aug. 21, IRNA—The Qasr-e Shirin municipality resumed its activities Monday following the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the Khosravi border region 15 kms southwest, after 10 years of occupation.

Municipal workers have swung into action cleaning public routes and removing garbage, said the mayor.

Khosravi has been the focus of attention over the past few days serving as a swapping post for Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war following Saddam Husayn's re-acceptance of the 1975 border accord. Before the Iraqi invasion and its subsequent destruction a decade ago, Khosravi was a bustling town of 7,000 people, and was considered one of the major transit and trade centers in Iran. It once boasted of such facilities as a customs office, petrol stations, health department, municipality and education centers.

Lebanon's Junblatt Meets President 18 Aug

LD1808172990 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 18, IRNA—President 'Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Lebanese Minister of Public Works, Transport and Tourism Walid Junblatt today. Junblatt who is also the leader of the Druze community briefed the president on the recent developments in the Lebanon. He also felicitated Iran on the triumph of its position in the peace process with Iraq, which this week saw Saddam Husayn's re-acceptance of the 1975 border accord.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his concern over the presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf region.

On renewed clashes between Hizballah and Amal forces in Lebanon, he made it clear "we are against the fratricide since it brings nothing to the warring sides but losses."

Iranian Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia was also present at the meeting.

Reportage on Thai Deputy Premier's Visit

Sarasin Arrives 15 Aug

LD1508223290 Tehran IRNA in English 2034 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—The Thai Vice-Premier Phong Sarasin arrived in Tehran Wednesday night at the head of a delegation comprising trade, oil and economic officials.

The delegation was greeted at the airport by Alireza Modayyeri, presidential advisor for international affairs.

Sarasin told reporters at the airport that his country was eager to promote friendly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added that his talks with the Iranian officials will center on ways and means to strengthen these ties.

Moayyeri also said expansion of mutual relations with Thailand in various areas takes place in the context of the policy to consolidate relations with Southeast Asian states.

The Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan was in Tehran at the head of a 30-man delegation earlier this week. These are the highest ranking Thai officials to visit Iran after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Discusses Ties With Velayati

LD1808155190 Tehran IRNA in English 1253 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Visiting Thai Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin today discussed cooperation in the oil and fisheries sector with Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati. He said that reciprocal visits will promote understandings between the two countries.

The Thai official invited Velayati to visit Bangkok, which the latter accepted hoping for an early opportunity. Sarasin who arrived here last Wednesday [15 August] is heading the first ranking Thai delegation to Iran during the past 15 years.

Discusses Oil Purchase

LD1808171390 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 18, IRNA—Thai Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin met Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh to discuss expansion of economic ties, oil in particular.

Stressing the potentials of Iran and Thailand, the two officials called for further cooperation in fields of mutual interest, especially in economic and oil exchanges.

The Thai official said his country was interested in purchasing Iranian oil in view of the present crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Meets Habibi, Moayeri

LD1808192590 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Thai Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin met here today with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi to brief him on his talks with the Iranian officials. The Thai official expressed delight over the execution of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Habibi said the Iranians were tasting the sweetness of their resistance during eight years of the Iraqi imposed war.

In related news, Sarasin held second round of talks with presidential advisor for international affairs 'Ali Reza Moayeri. In their meeting the two studied ways of cooperation in oil, commerce, heavy industries and anti-drug campaign. Moayeri announced that Iran and Thailand were going to establish solid and long-term mutual relations. "We hope the cooperation will be further consolidated," he said. Stressing expansion of bilateral ties between Tehran and Bangkok, Sarasin said anti-drug campaign would be a launching pad for the furthering of bilateral relations.

Ends Visit, Departs

LD1908093190 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA—Thai Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin left here Saturday [18 August] night at the conclusion of a three-day visit. He was seen off at the airport by presidential advisor for international affairs 'Ali Reza Moayeri.

Agreements were reached between the Thai delegation and the Iranian officials on mutual cooperation in commercial and heavy industries. Thailand is also to purchase the Iranian crude and cooperate in an anti-narcotics campaign.

The Thai delegation held meetings with Moayeri as well as first vice-president Hassan Habibi and ministers of foreign affairs, oil, commerce, heavy industries, and commander of the Islamic Revolution's Committees (IRC) and secretary of anti-narcotics headquarters.

Sarasin's visit to Tehran was aimed at following up the draft agreement signed during the session of the joint economic commission here last week.

Central Bank Governor Speaks on Economy

NC2208093090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The 30th general assembly of the Central Bank was held yesterday afternoon, attended by the minister of economic affairs and finance, the minister of commerce, the vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, the governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, members of the Currency and Credit Council, the committee supervising monetary reserves, members of the controllers' committee, members of the Supreme Council of Banks, and managing directors of the country's commercial and specialized banks.

During this meeting, the profit and loss balance sheet for 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran was discussed and approved.

At the end of the general assembly, Mr. 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran spoke to our correspondent and described the country's economic situation as positive and satisfactory. Mr. 'Adeli gave figures on the country's economy and said that the balance sheet that was approved speaks of the development in the country's economy.

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Mr. 'Adeli, the general assembly has approved the bank's profit and loss balance sheet. Please give us a general picture of the country's economy and discuss the situation of the banks.

['Adeli] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. As you know, the Central Bank's balance sheet manifests the country's economic and financial activities. Fortunately after 12 years, this year the balance sheet was prepared and submitted for approval on time and was approved tonight. This shows that the country's economic and financial activities are becoming more organized. This is a source of great satisfaction.

The Central Bank's financial statements in the assets' column show a considerable drop in the volume of the government's debts to the Central Bank. Our foreign exchange reserves have increased. In the liabilities' column, the volume of bank notes issued has dropped. The bank's income has increased and the bank's profit has increased by 11.8 percent. We allocated 20 billion rials from the bank's profits to the Agricultural Bank for an increase in its capital. We allocated 12 billion rials for the prize granted to legal bank deposits. We also increased the capital of the Central Bank up to a point.

There are some noteworthy points in the official economic report that we submitted to the general assembly and which was approved. For example, in 1368 positive economic expectations were fulfilled and the recent unfavorable trend in our economic variables was stopped and began to move in a positive direction. Our large industrial units have increased production. There was an increase in investments by the private sector. There has been a 33 percent increase in the government's development plans. The government's income increased during 1368. The government's expenditures increased too, but the increase in the income was more. We had a decrease in our budget deficit. We dropped from 2,160 billion [rials] in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] to 1,265 billion [rials] in 1368. Fewer bank notes were issued and this number dropped from 19.7 percent to 6.5 percent. There was also a reduction in cash in circulation. Our banking facilities, which shows that cash in circulation was placed into a favorable direction, were increased in order to compensate for the drop in the cash in circulation which stems from the increase in the rates of some of the foreign currencies.

One of the important points in our economic development in the second half of 1368 was the new foreign exchange system on the basis of which we introduced the competitive rates for foreign exchange. These competitive rates, in turn, led to an increase in production and to better financial structures of companies. They also led to more jobs and released some of our goods from the complicated administrative controls so that they could be produced in a better way and in a free atmosphere—free from allocation processes, free from government distribution, and free from pricing—thus enabling these products to reach the consumers more rapidly. In general, all these show a positive process that started in 1368.

As for foreign exchange incomes, fortunately the country's foreign exchange income in 1368 increased and we have a considerable amount of surplus foreign income reserves. This is actually a new beginning in the recent years. This shows that our receipts from foreign countries have been regulated. During this year, we received some of the money owed to us by foreign countries, from the Algerian statement and former loans or our claims from some nationalized companies. We received these during the second half of 1368 and this led to an increase in our current foreign exchange receipts.

[Correspondent] Mr. 'Adeli, in view of the positive trend showing on the balance sheet and the foreign currency situation you referred to, what is the situation of our gross national product [GNP] and what percentage has it increased?

['Adeli] Our estimates with the existing figures show that there has been a marked increase in the GNP. I should say that there has been some increase at stable prices. [sentence as heard] This increase in production has also caused a drop in the index of prices and services from 28.9 percent to 17.4 percent.

[Correspondent] Has inflation dropped or has it remained stable?

['Adeli] The index that I pointed to is actually the inflation index. Inflation growth has dropped. Of course there was inflation in 1368. But this was only 17.4 percent, which dropped from 28 percent—the rate in the preceding year. There is no doubt that we did have inflation. But we are trying to reduce the inflation rate and the percentage of its increase as much as possible so that we can prevent the rise in prices.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Cites Economy Figures

LD2208105890 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) here Tuesday [21 August] said that the CBI balance sheet for the Iranian calendar year 1368 (ended March 1990), was a proof of the "suitable economic conditions in the country".

Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli was speaking to IRNA at the conclusion of the annual session of the CBI General Assembly here Tuesday afternoon. The session was also attended by Economic and Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh, Commerce Minister 'Abdul Hoseyn Vahaji and head of the plan and budget organisation Masud Rowghani Zanjani.

According to 'Adeli total government debts to the CBI in 1368 dropped by 11 percent compared to the preceding year. He added that foreign exchange reserves of the country in 1368 amounted to 643 billion rials (each dlr. is equal to 67.35 rials on the official rate of Tuesday), up by 12 percent.

He noted that the increase in oil output and settlement of a number of financial disputes at The Hague tribunal led to the increase. Meanwhile he noted, non-oil exports brought in rls. 1.097 billion in 1368.

Total assets of the CBI by March 20, 1990 amounted to rls. 14,570 billion, 'Adeli said. According to the approval of the General Assembly the CBI capital will be increased to rls. 159 billion from the previous rls. 125 billion, he added.

During the year 1368, major industries raised their output and the average index numbers of industrial production reached 48 compared to the 42 of the preceding year. During the year the private sector investment registered an increase. Rls. 46 billion was invested for opening and operating of new units and rls. 67 billion for the expansion of the existing ones, the CBI governer said. Meanwhile the public sector increased its investment in development projects showing an increase of 33 percent in comparison to the preceding year, he added.

Government investment in industries was rls. 131 billion while investment in construction activities rose by 20 percent compared to the previous year, the official noted. As for economic and financial status of the government during 1368, 'Adeli noted that the government revenues rose by 52 percent and amounted to rls. 3,174.4 billion while its expenditures were rls. 4,440 billion, a growth of 4.6 percent, leading to budget deficit.

However, the CBI governor said, putting into circulation of new bank notes in 1368 dropped to 6.5 percent as compared to the 19.7 percent of 1367.

Turning to the credit terms provided by the banking system in 1368, he said that although the credits granted rose by 28 percent, the growth rate of liquidity only dropped to 19.5 percent compared to 23.8 of 1367.

'Adeli added that the inflation in 1368 dropped to 17.4 percent compared to the 28.9 percent of 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989].

Interior Ministry Allows New Parties To Form

LD2008152890 Tehran IRNA in English 1303 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—The Interior Ministry today gave the go ahead to three groups for formation of parties after studying their applications.

According to Article 10 of the law for parties, the Islamic Centre of Teachers, the Society of Surgeons and the Association of Pediatricians have been permitted to start activities as independent parties.

The Interior Ministry added that applications from other groups were under study and the decision will soon be taken.

Oil Minister on Caspian Drilling Success, OPEC

LD2208213190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Iranian efforts in prospecting for oil and gas paid dividents today when gas erupted from the first Iranian oil and gas well situated 30 km north of Bandar Anzali, in the Caspian Sea. Mr. Aqazadeh, the oil minister, announced the news today in an exclusive interview with our correspondent. The oil minister said:

[Begin recording] [Aqazadeh] Fortunately today we have very happy news for our nation. Following a great deal of effort in the Caspian Sea, this morning we reached a layer of gas at a depth of 4,219 metres with a pressure of 8,000 pounds per square inch. It is a mixture of 84 percent methane, 10 percent pentane, and six percent hexane. The existence of the hexane gas indicates that there is a strong possibility of reaching a layer of oil after the gas. The discovery of gas in that region plays a positive role and will bring a great change in the region from the economic point of view. We think that this was a very valuable piece of work which was realized today, after many years of wishful thinking.

[Correspondent] Since around 40 sources [of oil and gas] have been identified in the Caspian Sea close to our country, please tell us about the Oil Ministry's future plans for the discovery and commissioning of those resources.

[Aqazadeh] As you are informed, in an area near the Neka region, with the cooperation of the Finns, at present we are involved in the assembly of an oil platform and establishment of a shipyard. As you pointed out, 40 large sources have been identified in that region, and this is the first drilling of one of those sources. Definitely, in the future with the expansion of prospecting in the regin, big steps will be taken toward improving the country;s national assets and its resources. We think we have some very good volumes of oil and gas in that reigon.

[Correspondent] Since the price of oil is an important issue raised everywhere these days, please tell us about the price of Iranian oil in recent days.

[Aqazadeh] In today's conditions, and in particular today, oil prices enjoy a very high level of stability. Iranian light oil was traded at over $28 today and one consignment was even sold at $29. The reason for the increase in the price of the Iranian oil is that customers are interested in our region's oil, which is more secure and therefore there is a lot of demand for it, and that is why the price of Iranian oil is higher than others, in comparison. [as heard]

[Correspondent] What is the level of Iranian oil production?

[Aqazadeh] We produce according to the OPEC quota and—as I have explained this point many times—the

Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is to stick to the OPEC quotas, and we see no reason to increase our production. In present conditions there is no shortage of oil in the market which would require us to increase our production.

[Correspondent] Yes. Thank you.

[Aqazadeh] You are welcome.

*Commentary Against Amal-Hizbollah Infighting

90AS0301D Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
23 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] Renewed battles between Amal and Hizbollah forces in Iqlim Al-Toufah, southern Lebanon, over the past few days have been among the two Shiite groups' bloodiest wars even by the Lebanese standards.

The raging battle has taken on new dimensions with the deployment of forces loyal to Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the area.

Although not the first of armed confrontations between Amal and Hizbollah, the present war is certainly among the most obnoxious and ominous of the very regrettable Shiite infightings. The Palestinian forces' involvement and their siding with the Amal has been received with much surprise among observers.

Unfortunately countries that carry weight with these two groups have so far failed to step in with practical measures to stop the battle. All they have done so far is issuing verbal condemnations. Such course of action has been repeatedly followed by these countries in the past too.

Among countries having influence over Lebanese developments Iran and Syria top the list. But even these two have usually moved in to stop the fighting with some delay.

This late reaction to the critical situation by influential countries has only aggravated the crisis taking the death toll higher. And the higher the casualties, the more raging the two fighting groups in their thirst for revenge.

Syria however has greater responsibility to prevent such regrettable Moslem infightings. Given its military presence and powerful intelligence outfits in Lebanon Syria seems to be in a position to even prevent such battles before they occur.

Amal and Hizbollah however should know quite well that the ominous fruit of their confrontations are reaped only by the Zionist regime. While battle rages among Moslems Israel feels more secured within the borders of its usurped territory.

These infightings are absolutely stripped of any religio-political justification and should come to a halt at once.

The opportunist forces of Arafat too are only trying to fish in troubled water, fan the flames of the war and strengthen their own foothold in south Lebanon.

Leaders of Islamic and nationalist Lebanese groups should be aware that special conditions of the region, given the new world developments, necessitates an ever-increasing cooperation and unity among all Lebanese factions. Before such a unity is achieved they are not likely to achieve their objectives.

*Commentary on Kuwait's Territorial Integrity

90AS0301C Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
22 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] The crisis in Iraq-Kuwait relations has not seen its ebb yet. Apparently Shazli Kalibi, Arab League's secretary general is trying to prevent the aggravation of the situation between the two capitals. Some other Arab leaders too are at work to that end. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd is also reported to have talked to Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaders on the phone urging them to settle their problem through peaceful means.

The Iraqi-Kuwait problem is a two-pronged one. At one point President Saddam Hussein has accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of having caused a glut in the oil market by producing over and beyond their assigned OPEC quotas. He has promised to take practical steps to stop this. From this angle Iran can, to some extent, support the Iraqi stance. As Tehran finds it a fairly good idea to punish those who violate OPEC quotas. Violation of quotas has indeed hurt OPEC and consequently all the members as it has pulled down the oil price substantially in recent months.

Petro-dollars are indeed the very lifeblood in the economic veins of nations depending on oil revenues. In fact measures to cause a crash in the oil prices are tantamount to moves against the concerned countries' national security. Besides, all the admonitions from other members to violating governments to keep to their quota ceilings have so far fallen on deaf ears. Practical means of punishment against quota violators seems a necessity.

But Iraq has also accused Kuwait of violating Iraqi territory and stealing Iraqi oil. According to Baghdad Iraqi oil stashed away by Kuwait since 1980 amounts to 2.4 billion dollars.

The Iraqi claim to this end does not seem to be logical and truthful. The claim has its roots in Iraq's long-held territorial ambitions against Kuwait as well as in Baghdad leaders' military political aspirations.

The Iraqi challenge to Kuwait also betrays a certain degree of ingratitude as Kuwait made the most voluminous economic contribution to Iraq's war budget in the course of the latter's eight year imposed war with Iran.

Iran however dismisses the Iraqi territorial ambitions against Kuwait. Regardless of all the hostile moves by Kuwait during the war, Iran respects the Kuwaiti territorial integrity and believes internationally-recognized borders should be honored.

From a general perspective however all nations should try to settle their problems only at the negotiating table and never should they speak from the barrel of a gun. Aggression and bullying has no place in our age.

Pakistan

Another 600 Citizens Return From Gulf 22 Aug

BK2208163890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Another 600 Pakistanis have reached Karachi from Riyadh and Amman by two Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] flights. Meanwhile, the PIA will start 15 special flights to repatriate more than 3,500 Pakistanis to Karachi from Riyadh and Amman which will continue from tomorrow till the 29th of this month. More than 3,000 Pakistanis have already been repatriated by six special flights and various other flights last week.

Over 1,000 Return 23 Aug

BK2308112690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Over 1,000 Pakistanis arrived in Karachi today from Riyadh, Amman, and Dhahran where they have reached from Kuwait. Two special PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] flights were operated, while an international flight was diverted to Amman to pick up stranded Pakistanis. PIA will be operating three flights to Amman tomorrow to bring back about 500 Pakistanis.

Further on Jatoi 22 Aug Senate Speech

BK2208114890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has reiterated his government's determination to hold elections in time in a free and fair atmosphere, to strengthen institutions, and to do whatever possible to correct the wrongdoings of the previous government. He said this during his maiden speech in the Senate today. He reminded that it was a caretaker government for the specific purpose of holding elections. However, the accountability also has to go on side-by-side with the elections. He made it clear that one has nothing to do with the other and none will be delayed by the other. The prime minister referred to the steps that had already been taken to start the election process.

About accountability, he said the government will do as much as possible within the short time at its disposal. He recalled the president's address to the nation on the 6th of this month in which he dealt with the situation which caused dissolution of the assembly. There was unprecedented corruption, loot and plunder of national wealth. The law and order condition deteriorated day-by-day, Constitution was violated, and there was blatant interference in affairs of the provinces. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said he had been called upon to shoulder responsibilities at a difficult time.

New Federal Government Authenticates Punjab Bank

BK1908120690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The chairman, Bank of Punjab, Mr. Tajammul Hussain, called on the caretaker prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, in Islamabad today. He apprised the prime minister of the progress made by the bank since its establishment [by Punjab provincial government of Nawaz Sharif last year]. The prime minister said the federal government has already announced the decision to make the Bank of Punjab a scheduled bank. The government would like the bank to develop into a first class banking institution in the country. The chairman of the bank thanked the prime minister for the expeditious and speedy decision of the federal government having far-reaching effects on the overall economic progress of the country. He said that full cooperation of the national banking system and foreign banks will now be available to the Bank of Punjab.

Finance Minister on Streamlining National Economy

BK1808151190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz has said that the government is considering a number of steps to streamline the national economy. Addressing members of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry this afternoon, he said that the government, as a top priority, has taken several steps to keep the prices of essential items at an appropriate level. The federal minister said that in the next phase, the economic situation will be improved by containing inflation and avoiding deficit financing. He urged the private sector to avail itself of the facilities in different sectors to their fullest extent, thereby increasing exports in the highest national interests.

Provincial Assembly Elections Set for 27 Oct

BK1808162090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The Election Commission at its meeting in Islamabad today decided to hold elections for provincial assemblies on 27 October. This is, however, subject to formal confirmation by the president. The meeting also discussed various matters relating to the timely conduct of elections.

PPP Leader Decries Establishment of Tribunals

BK2308030490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Lahore, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, the Pakistan People's Party secretary general, has criticized the establishment of special tribunals, describing them as summary trial courts. He also criticized the declaration of the state of emergency.

Minister Says No Travel Bans on Politicians

BK2308113690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The interior minister, Mian Zahid Sarfaraz, told Senate today that very few persons were on the exit control list [banning foreign travel]. The list did not include any political leader or member of parliament. He was speaking on an adjournment motion sought to be moved by Mr. Javed Jabbar against the placing of names of a number of political leaders and former MNA's [members of National Assembly] on the exit control list. The movers argued that this plan interferes with the freedom of movement of those persons.

23 Killed, 45 Wounded in Karachi Incidents

BK2308025690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi administration says that while the Muhajir Qaumi Movement was busy making preparations to welcome its leader, Altaf Hussain, back home from abroad, some troublemakers in cars fired at several reception camps—set up throughout Karachi to welcome Altaf Hussain—at about 1800 yesterday evening, killing and wounding a number of people. The press note adds that 23 people were killed and 45 wounded as a result of the shooting. The four cars involved in the shooting incidents have been identified and the police and law enforcement agencies have launched joint operations to arrest the criminals. They have also intensified patrolling the city, and the situation is now under control.

Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan People's Party cochairperson, has expressed deep grief over the loss of innocent lives in the shooting incidents in Karachi yesterday.

Senate Briefed

BK2308094590 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The Senate was informed today that 16 persons have been arrested for interrogation in connection with yesterday's firing incidents in Karachi. The interior minister, Mian Zahid Sarfaraz, told the House that 27 people were killed and 60 injured, some of them seriously, in the tragic firing. He was giving a statement in the House in reply to a point order by Professor Khurshid Ahmad to draw attention to the incident. He said since taking over by the caretaker government, the situation in Karachi and Hyderabad had become normal. There was even a significant decrease in the dacoity [robbery] cases in the interior of Sindh.

Explaining the incident, the interior minister said the government did anticipate such attacks and was keeping an eye on certain people, but it thought they will take place when a procession was taken out on the arrival of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] chief, Mr. Altaf Hussain. The gunmen, who were unidentified, however, struck 1 day ahead on the camps set by the MQM workers in preparation for Mr. Altaf Hussain's arrival.

Editorial Urges Iraq To Withdraw From Kuwait

BK1708154890 Karachi DAWN in English 17 Aug 90 p 7

[Editorial: "An Overture or a Gambit?]

[Text] President Saddam Husayn is now displaying some kind of shrewdness in his present state of isolation that was not quite expected of him. Since he moved his forces into Kuwait on August 2, provoking an angry reaction from the world community, the Iraqi leader has found himself friendless with the exception of the political support he had received from a handful of hardliners in the Arab world.

Now Baghdad is seeking to overcome its predicament by trying to win some allies by means of a subtle manipulation of some of the basic contradictions in the Middle East. By offering to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwait if Israel vacates the West Bank and Gaza, President Saddam has touched a sensitive chord in the Arab world. The latest move is Wednesday's announcement that Iraq would accept the 1975 Algiers accord with Tehran on the Shatt al-Arab and begin withdrawing its troops from the Iranian territory it occupied during the eight-year war with that country. This is a positive step which should help stabilise the situation in the Gulf provided the Iraqi offer is not linked with the Kuwaiti crisis.

It was President Saddam who invaded Iran in 1980 and then fought an eight-year war to establish his claim to the entire Shatt al-Arab. In fact, so inflexible was he in his stand on the Iran-Iraq border that the two countries slid into a long military stalemate and failed to convert the ceasefire of August 1988 into a permanent peace settlement. The latest stance of Iraq, provided it is not a calculated diplomatic gambit or a diversionary move, carries the promise of binding at least-one festering wound in the troubled Gulf. Indeed, if President Saddam carries his peace offer through, it should facilitate the exchange of nearly 100,000 prisoners-of-war and the evacuation of Iraqi troops from Iranian territory [words indistinct]

It will, however, be necessary for Iraq not to attempt to link its offer to Iran with its position on Kuwait. Obviously, the overture to Iran is designed to soften Tehran's stance on Baghdad's Kuwaiti adventure. Iran has been unequivocal in condemning the August 2 invasion and demanding an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. But paradoxically Iran has found itself on the same side as Iraq in the oil politics of OPEC. Moreover, the bolstered American presence in the Gulf under the cover of a multinational military shield against Iraqi expansionism has also ruffled the Iranians whose ties with Washington are far from being friendly. Hence an olive branch from

Baghdad could keep Iran at a distance from the anti-Iraq line-up that has been formed in the wake of the invasion of Kuwait. What needs to be stressed, however, is that the principled position the world has adopted on Kuwait should not be compromised under any circumstance. President Saddam has called for an Iran-Iraq withdrawal as part of a wider arrangement envisaging a similar pullout from Kuwait as well. The main sticking point in this arrangement could be an attempt, now only implied, to make one withdrawal conditional upon the other.

If, on the other hand, the Iraqi leader is now willing to negotiate the evacuation of his troops from Kuwait, this should elicit a positive response from the parties concerned. The aim should be to restore the status quo ante in the Gulf. If it can be done as part of a wider arrangement as President Saddam Husayn has hinted, there could be no serious objection to it—so long as no linkage is insisted upon and the principle of settling all disputes by peaceful means is accepted and faithfully adhered to. Indeed, pragmatism demands that all these issues—Israel's occupation of Arab lands, the Iran-Iraq border dispute and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait—are not linked together. They are not interrelated in any way, one has not been the cause of the other and one aggression cannot be condoned because another has been committed. The test of the bona fides of Iraq's peace offer will lie in its willingness to vacate its aggression as part of a settlement with both Kuwait and Iran.

Paper Reports Spread of AIDS Cases

BK1808131890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Aug 90 p 8

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Aug 17—AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), the deadly disease, unknown till few years back has assumed an alarming proportion in Pakistan.

Official sources say that the number of AIDS patients had shot up from 37 to 57, which they thought was an alarming portent. Experts are of the view that the reported cases represent only a tip of iceberge. AIDS virus is much higher than the reported one. Just three months earlier, there were 50 AIDS patients of whom 13 died. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Troops Clear Kayts Island of LTTE Guerrillas

BK2308092090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0716 GMT 23 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 23 (LANKAPUVATH)—Kayts, a small island approximately 11 miles north west of the Jaffna Peninsula has been cleared of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists yesterday, said Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne at his weekly cabinet news briefing today. He said the security forces were now engaged in clearing operations of another little island, Mandaitivu, also in the north west of the Jaffna Peninsula. He said the LTTE nuisance would be completely wiped out. In answer to a question Mr. Wijeratne said that he would not give a specific date as to when the operation would be completed.

Mr. Wijeratne said that the offer to vacate the Jaffna Fort and the suggestion for the International Committee of Red Cross [ICRC] to take over and maintain the fort and Jaffna Hospital was made to the ICRC but as there had been a delay in getting the approval from their (ICRC) headquarters in Geneva, the security forces had gone ahead with their own plans. There was a blockade enforced by security forces in the north to prevent the movement of arms and terrorist cadres. The Jaffna Hospital was closed on a decision made by the doctors of the hospital itself. He said that most of the Sinhala and Muslim refugees in Trincomalee were getting back to their villages. The government was also providing these villages protection.

In answer to a question, he said that there were no leads on the missing American priest.

Mr. Wijeratne, in reply to a question said, the government was purchasing military hardware from the open market, worldwide and the supplies were coming in regularly. He said that personally he would go ahead with with his plan to fight the LTTE to a finish but if the government directs him he would abide by the decision, including the holding of talks.

Mr. Wijeratne said that 526 service and police personnel had been killed, 457 were missing and 893 wounded in action.

Presidential advisor on international relations, Bradman Weerakoon, said there were around 100.000 Sri Lankans in Kuwait and discussions were going on between the governments to keep the embassy in Kuwait open for consular functions.

He said that a parliamentary delegation will visit Bangladesh on the 27th of this month. The delegates who will be in Bangladesh on 28,29 and 30 will meet Bangladesh president, prime minister, speaker and leader of the opposition. Associated with Mr. Wijeratne at today's (?cabinet) news briefing were Minister of Industries and Scientific Research, Ranil Wickramasinghe; Minister of State for Information A. J. Ranasinghe; Secretary, Ministry of Defence, General Cyril Ranatunge; and presidential advisor on international relations Bradman Weerakoon.

Wijeratne Denies 'Indiscriminate' Jaffna Bombing

BK2208163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan minister of state for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, has said there is no indiscriminate bombing of the Jaffna Peninsula. Addressing heads of diplomatic missions in Colombo today, he said that any action will be taken only after careful assessment avoiding loss of life to civilians. He said that the LTTE [Liberations Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will have to be forcefully removed from the Mannar island to develop into a refugee camp, as LTTE is resisting it.

Jaffna Curfew Imposed; Air Force Bombs Targets

BK2308111490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] A curfew was imposed in the Jaffna District yesterday after air dropped leaflets warned the people to stay indoors. Unofficial sources and Reuter reports say that the air force planes used this as a prelude to a major assault in the north. Military reports reveal that two battalions of up to 2,000 men have begun moving out of their camps in the north. Reports say that the air force have bombed targets in the north, while artillery fire has also been opened on rebel positions from the Karainagar naval base. These attacks were in retaliation to LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacks on army camps in Jaffna. The Elephant Pass and Mullaitivu army camps also came under sporadic attack, but no casualties have been reported. Nine terrorists were killed by the security forces at Unnichchai and Vellaveli in the Batticaloa District.

Nine 'Terrorists' Killed by Forces in North, East

BK2208122190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0823 GMT 22 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—Nine LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed during operations by the security forces in the north east, security sources told LANKAPUVATH.

According to security sources 7 LTTE terrorists were killed in Batticaloa during a search operation. At Vellavelly in the Batticaloa District 2 LTTE terrorists were killed and large numbers of AK-47 guns and ammunition were recovered.

The security detachment in Mullaittivu, and the security detachments in Jaffna Fort and Kankesanturai came under terrorists fire. One policeman was killed in Jaffna Fort and two soldiers were injured at Kankesanturai. No casualties were reported in Mullaittivu.